

THE JERUSALEM POST

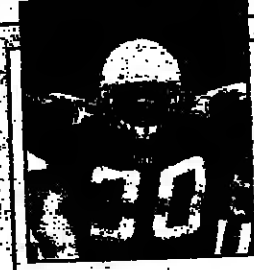
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Paula spoils the president's party
Page 4



Patriots make it to Super Bowl
World of Sport



That thing they do
In Tune, Page 7

Index

Arts & Entertainment	7
Business	8
Crossword	11
Movies/TV	11
Opinion	6
Sports	10

US, not parties, to assure pullback dates



US envoy Dennis Ross (left) and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat confer atop Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

By DAVID MAKOVSKY, JON IHMANUEL and SARAH HONG

The dates for three, post-Hebron IDF pullbacks from the West Bank are likely to be put forward in separate US "letters of assurance" to Israelis and Palestinians, and not signed by the parties, a US official said last night.

Meanwhile, wrangling continued all day yesterday as the negotiators drafted the Hebron accord. There were indications that both Israelis and Palestinians were reopening unspecified and perhaps minor parts of the accord, but Israeli officials insisted the Palestinians were at fault.

Last night Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai suggested the US should announce a time for the initialing ceremony this afternoon, hoping the announcement of a deadline would end what he believed to be Palestinian stalling. Tempers ran high at different

moments of the talks, and at one point sources say Israelis, Palestinians and US officials engaged in a three-way shouting match. However, according to one source, this was not serious.

"I think with all the tension, people needed to vent, so everybody was shouting," the source said. "I hope we finish late tonight, but we just cannot be sure."

Some talks were held at the Laromme Hotel last night, while another set of negotiators met at the Jerusalem home of US Consul-General Ed Abington.

As it stands now, the letters of assurance will be handed by the US to each side, but it is unclear whether each side will be informed what is in the other's letter, nor whether the letters will be made public alongside the official Hebron redeployment agreement.

The last time the US drafted letters of assurance to Israelis and Palestinians was on the eve of the

Who's for, against and undecided in the cabinet, Page 2

1991 Madrid peace conference. These letters have never been disclosed, but are assumed to be an enunciation of US Middle East policy.

These letters - while not called letters of guarantee - will be more focused than the Madrid letters. It will state clearly how we see the peace process moving forward, including the fact that we see the third pullback concluding by the middle of 1998," the official said.

He suggested the letters would be different and apparently meant to assuage anxieties.

The date for the conclusion of the third pullback was brokered by Jordan's King Hussein in sudden visits to Gaza and Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Sources indicate that the signing of the pullback dates by the US and not by the parties themselves is due to the reluctance of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to be a signatory. It remains unclear why Netanyahu is not planning to sign, since he was part of the brokered deal along with Hussein. However, the Palestinians attach utmost significance to the fact that the US government will stand behind the pullbacks.

The US letters of assurance are not likely to be the only US documents surrounding the Hebron pact. Apart from the Hebron deal itself, the US is likely to attach to the accord a public "note of the record" which would outline other outstanding obligations by Israelis and Palestinians as part of the peace agreement.

Netanyahu and Mordechai estimated the Hebron agreement would be initialled today. Other officials, like Abington were also

hopeful. Palestinian officials were less certain, but said agreement was close.

"We are trying to draft the protocol, the implementation of Hebron and the American letter. This is time-consuming," said chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

Continued on Page 5

Knesset factions still split on Hebron

By LIAT COLLINS

Hebron featured on the agenda of all the Knesset factions' weekly meetings yesterday, although MKs showed no sign of changing their opinions.

The Third Way, Yisrael Ba'aliya, Labor, Meretz and Shas still intend to support the agreement. Moledet and the National Religious Party oppose it, while other coalition factions are divided.

Third Way MKs met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the evening. Netanyahu promised them the three further redeployments will be decided only by the government and will not include settlement blocs. Greater Jerusalem or the Jordan Valley. That persuaded the Third Way MKs to tell the premier they would support the agreement.

The Third Way also discussed its stand with Yisrael Ba'aliya. Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs met with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharan, one of the party's two cabinet members. The

other Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, opposes the agreement. Sharan said it is too early to make a definitive decision as the agreement has yet to be finalized, but that his party would support the agreement if it meets three conditions: "Ensuring the safety and improving the living conditions of all Hebron residents; that any further steps be conditional on reciprocity and the Palestinians' fulfilling previous commitments; and that the interpretation of the three stages of the further redeployment be the Israeli interpretation and none other."

The National Religious Party met with Tsomet to coordinate its approach. Both Tsomet and the NRP are demanding a meeting.

Continued on Page 5

Shamir: GSS head lied to me in 'Bus 300 affair'

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday accused former General Security Service head Avraham Shalom of lying to him about the GSS's beating to death two terrorists in what is known as the "Bus 300 affair."

Shamir was interviewed by Dan Margalit on Channel 1's *Popolitika* program last night, two days before Channel 1 is scheduled to broadcast the *Bus No. 300* series about the terrorist attack on April 12, 1984, and the state inquiry which followed.

Last weekend, *Yedioth Aharonot's* weekend magazine *7 Days* published an interview with

Shalom four years ago, in which he admits that he gave the order to kill two terrorists who were caught alive, and reported everything to then-prime minister Shamir three days afterwards.

Shamir vehemently denied knowing about the terrorists' murder or having any part in the cover-up that followed, during the Zorea Commission's inquiry into the affair.

"I had full confidence in Shalom, all the years. He was an excellent GSS head until this failure. He failed in giving an illegal order and then lying. He never said to me, 'We finished them off,' never. The moment he lied, instead of saying he had given his men the order to kill the terrorists, he was caught and continued

lying. He didn't lie only to me, but in the state, to his colleagues, and was entangled in an endless web of lies until he fell," Shamir said.

Shamir also said it was inconceivable to him that the GSS could be involved in "making up stories to me, the prime minister. We train the GSS heads to use every lie and fraud necessary towards outside enemies, but inside they must tell only the truth. That's the law in the Mossad and the GSS."

Shalom was forced to resign from the GSS in September 1986, a year after three senior GSS officials threatened to expose the affair unless he did so five months after the affair was first exposed on ITV.

Child makes advertisers wash their mouths out with soap

By ESTHER HECHT

Nine-year-old Shachaf Zilberman of Moshava Kinneret was not amused by the jingle in the Dial soap commercial on Channel 2. In fact, she and her two siblings were so offended by the line, "if you've got children, you've got germs," she made her mother promise not to buy the soap.

Then she wrote to the National Council for the Child, a children's rights advocacy group, to express her disgust at the commercial. She ended her letter with a sharp, "Excuse me, but I'm not a germ."

Council director Dr. Yitzhak Kadman forwarded Shachaf's letter

to Yoel Rekem, ombudsman of The Second Television and Radio Authority, and Rekem brought her complaint to the attention of Nahman Shai, the authority's director-general. Shai took the matter to the advertisers.

In a letter to Rekem, Shai said the authority itself had initially nixed the ad containing the offensive line, but its advertising committee - in response to the sponsor's appeal - had reconsidered and allowed the ad to stand.

But Shachaf's complaint, he continued, coupled with the committee's reservations, apparently wrought a change of heart in the sponsor, who decided to clean up its act and remove the offensive line.

Shachaf was very cavalier about her achievement.

"I don't think it's a great honor," she said yesterday. "I did it because [the ad] was insulting and presented children in a negative way. We're not germs."

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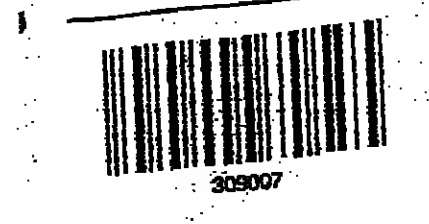
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NEWS

in brief

MDA selling first-aid kits for shelters

Magen David Adom has launched a campaign for the reduced-price purchase of first-aid kits meant specially for home shelters. The campaign is open only to house committees that are members of the Association for Home Betterment (*Aguda Letarbut Hadyur*). The contents of the kit were prepared after consultation with trauma and security experts, after lessons were learned from the Gulf war. The kits are available at all MDA stations with proof of membership in the association. MDA also has asked house committees to organize blood donations by residents of cooperative buildings; if enough people register, MDA staffers will come to them. *Judy Siegel*

Hospital workers to apply sanctions

Government hospital workers will apply sanctions starting tomorrow morning, the union announced last night. Union chairman Batya Levy said the workers would apply sanctions in all the state hospitals without informing management or the public beforehand exactly where and what they will entail. A committee headed by Yossi Cohen, the deputy head of wages in the Treasury, was convened with officials from the union, the Health and Finance Ministries and the Civil Service Commission. They decided "unanimously" on a list of additional staffers entitled to special duty allowances, and the workers are protesting because Cohen now refuses to approve them, Levy said. *Judy Siegel*

Bill on restricting monuments discussed

The Knesset Interior Committee discussed a bill yesterday by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) which would ban the establishment of monuments to murderers. The bill, which passed preliminary reading last month, primarily is aimed at removing Baruch Goldstein's grave from a park in Kiryat Arba. Justice Ministry official Yehoshua Schoffman noted the problematic nature in this case because the grave is in Judea and Samaria, where Israeli civil law is not in force. IDF representatives told the committee the military is examining different proposals which would stop the site from serving as a monument. *Liat Collins*

Court OKs cancellation of Malevsky's passport

The High Court of Justice has rejected businessman Anton Malevsky's petition against the revocation of his Israeli passport. Justices Tova Strasberg-Cohen, Tsvi Tal and Dalia Dornier ruled yesterday that the Interior Ministry's decision was substantive and reasonable, accepting the state's contention that Malevsky had fraudulently acquired citizenship by signing a false declaration in 1994 that he was not wanted for crimes in Russia. The court also based its decision on classified police information alleging that he is one of the leaders of organized crime in Russia. *Itim*

S. Africa may sell tank equipment to Syria

South Africa is considering selling 3 billion rands (\$650 million) worth of tank firing control systems to Syria. Deputy President Thebo Mbeki is studying whether the sale would violate Washington's Counterterrorism Act, according to local press reports. *AP*

Settlers lobby ministers against Hebron pact

By HERB KEINON

Hebron settlement heads and leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza fanned out in the Knesset yesterday in a last-minute lobbying blitz. They were trying hard to mobilize enough cabinet votes to block a Hebron agreement they claim will ultimately lead to a withdrawal from the vast majority of the territories.

One group of Likud members of the settlement council met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, while other groups went to meetings of Tsomet, the National Religious Party, Shas, and Yisrael Ba'alya.

"We will do everything we can to ensure that the cabinet opposes the decision the prime minister reached with the Palestinians and Americans," council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein said at the end of the meeting, where various proposals to fight the decision were aired. Proposals ranged from a hunger strike to round-the-clock vigils in front of the homes of various ministers, to mass resignations of the settlement leadership.

The proposals represented a stark about-face from an announcement by the council two weeks ago that it would begin organizing demonstrations in favor of the government. The council's zigzagging between calls for active support and opposition is an indication that it is at a loss as to which tactic better serves its goals.

Aryeh Ofri, head of the Shomron Regional Council, said the council's about-face occurred because settlement leaders feel that the premise they had been working on - that Netanyahu would go ahead with the Hebron redeployment, but then "redo" the rest of the Oslo accords - was in error.

In addition to a decision to intensify lobbying efforts, the council also decided to hold a meeting tonight of all the heads and elected representatives of the settlements to decide on further action. Wallerstein said that among the proposals to be discussed will be whether all settlement heads should resign, and whether general strikes should be declared in the settlements.



Women in Green leader Nadia Matar (right) leads some 20 right-wing activists, including Moleket MK Rehavam Ze'evi (center), in a protest yesterday against the impending Hebron agreement in front of Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel, where much of the negotiating is taking place. *(Rehav Ze'evi)*

The proposal for mass resignations was broached at the meeting by Ariel Local Council head Ron Nahman. "What we need to do," Nahman said, "is to go to Netanyahu and say that we are handing back the keys. What we are doing now is just trading water, while the sword dangles above us. I did not support Netanyahu and this government so they could carry out the Oslo agreements."

Nahman said that large demonstrations and other protest acts are "not worth half a cent. What we need is something that will shake up the whole system."

This approach did not, however,

receive unanimous approval. Yehuda Lieberman, head of the Karmel Shomron Local Council, opposed it, saying: "We cannot say that we support Erez Yisrael only if we get it all, and that if we don't we are just going to leave it." He said that the council must hold onto every house and every settlement, and not throw up its hands and "hand back the keys."

The meeting took place amid a crisis atmosphere, with several speakers saying that if the government commits itself to the three stages of redeployment - after Hebron, Judea and Samaria - will be lost.

Hebron itself came up very little

in the meeting, an indication that most of the council has come to grips with the inevitability of a redeployment in the city. Orit Shturck, one of Hebron's leaders, said that as bad as the redeployment is for Hebron, the further redeployment stages bode even worse for the rest of the territories.

She said that although a Labor government would likely have ensured that settlement blocks remain under Israeli control, she is not so sure about what will happen under the present government. "The difference is that Labor had an opposition on the right headed by Netanyahu; this government

does not have an equivalent," she said.

Kiryat Arba activist Elyakim Ha'etzi said that until the government signs the agreement, the council must work with it. "But if it does approve the agreement, it is [Shimon] Peres's government, even worse. Now it is still an address, and there is no need [yet] for blocking roads or civil disobedience."

Instead, Ha'etzi proposed "laying siege" to the homes of "relevant ministers," by bringing protesters to their homes and demonstrating around the clock. This, Ha'etzi said, "is called personal, moral, and ideological pressure."

Netanyahu confident of cabinet majority

By SARAH HONIG

Around Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu there is a calm air of confidence that he will get his deal with Arafat past the cabinet hurdle. Netanyahu, it is asserted, already has a majority and even in the unlikely event of a tie, he can break it with his double vote.

But talk aside, Netanyahu tried very hard yesterday to make sure he will encounter no unpleasant surprises. He spent plenty of time meeting with ministers to bring them up to date on the latest developments, in the hope that the delay he won in the final pullback will win him more support in the cabinet. He also promised them that he will show them the draft agreement, when it is finally formulated.

All this did not much change the basic picture from what it has been for the past few weeks. Here is the lineup:

AGAINST

Diehard Oslo opponents Ze'ev Begin (Likud) - The latest "improvements" Netanyahu has made in the deal have only deepened Begin's opposition. "What will be left to negotiate

when the final status talks come up, after we will have already performed the last withdrawal and most of the territory is in Arafat's hands?" he asks. "Will we then do a little give-and-take on Jerusalem or on returning refugees, just to save the deal?"

Ariel Sharon (Likud) - He is peeved at not being consulted, despite his expertise, and charges that "The deal will expose the Jews of Hebron to the danger of slaughter, while Arafat will demand the further withdrawals we have undertaken to make. If we refuse, he will unleash violence from superior positions and the world will side with him."

Yitzhak Levy (NRP) - His sole question yesterday was "whether we vote against in the cabinet, but stay in the government, or whether we leave the coalition altogether."

Zevulun Hammer (NRP) - With his party's umbilical connection to the settlers and their supporters, there is no doubt he will cast a nay vote, "but I would at least like to see the agreement. All we have heard so far does not begin to take us out of the dark. We were promised that we will have the opportunity to study this agreement in detail before it is initiated."

Limor Livnat (Likud) - Because of her deep Revisionist ideological roots, she probably agonized more than others due to her closeness to Netanyahu. "I cannot vote for an agreement which would imperil Jews in Hebron and especially now that such a binding linkage has been made to the further withdrawals. I know we must honor the agreements of the previous government, but this deal is not good enough."

Pragmatic opponents Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) - He, too, has complained about not even being heard out, despite his military background. Yesterday he added that "All the newest details of the agreement do not change the basic fact that this agreement will mean the end of the Zionist endeavor of the settlements, that it will endanger the Jews of Hebron, that it will endanger the residents of Israel's heartland, and that it will speed the creation of a Palestinian state, which will sow havoc in this land."

Yudi Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'alya) - Netanyahu met with him yesterday in an effort to sway him, but Edelstein remained unconvinced. "precisely because I support the peace objective. But we must not sign something for the sake of signing. We must be

sure that what we sign will pass the test of time and this deal will not; so all the talk about the pullbacks in 1998 are irrelevant, because this will explode in our faces before then."

David Levy - Has supported a modified Oslo agreement all along, even before the elections, and in many ways has positioned himself consistently to Netanyahu's left.

Yitzhak Mordechai - He is one of the most powerful backers of the deal, despite his military tough-guy image; a fact that has come as a bitter pill to his many fans among the Likud hawks.

Dan Meridor - He has always been considered a leading Likud dove and is the left's favorite Likudnik. Yesterday he expressed unreserved support for the deal, saying, "Sure, it hurts us all, but things have changed and we cannot ignore this and pretend that they have not. We had opposed the

to withdraw from most of the territories by a given date is also dangerous, and may return us to the 1949 lines without the real peace we desire." His brother and sister-in-law have recently moved to Hebron.

FOR Netanyahu - For public consumption he says he has considered a fully improved on the original Oslo formula. This view may be very weighty, because the law now endows him with a double tie-breaker vote.

Avigdor Kahalani (The Third Way) - Last night he said he "tends" to support the deal, though he has various reservations, which several hours earlier led him to declare himself undecided. His vote, he argued, depends on not harming the settlements, especially in the Etzion Bloc and the Jordan Valley, on

Oslo process and justly thought it a bad one, but it is a fair accomplishment and we must make the best of a bad situation."

PROBABLE Eli Suissa and Eli Yishai (Shas) - Both have a stock answer: They will do as their mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef instructs them. But true to Shas form, Yosef has been issuing contradictory signals geared to keep everybody guessing. The bet, however, is that in the end (perhaps with the added incentive of various promises unconnected with Hebron), the two will vote for the deal.

Yehoshua Matar (Likud) - He is the newest cabinet member and, although a veteran Herutnik, he is seen as too lacking in confidence and much too grateful to Netanyahu and his recent endorsement over the failed appointment of a new attorney-general, has weakened him and he might be less likely to take Netanyahu on.

Netanyahu for having made him a minister to oppose his benefactor so early in his tenure.

oot returning to the pre-June 1967 lines, and on going through with any future withdrawals only if conditions are judged satisfactory by Israel.

Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) - Only last week he declared that he was undecided and would vote against the Hebron deal if it were linked to further withdrawals, adding he would not be the only minister to do so from a motion those counted as supporting the deal. However, he is close to Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and his recent endorsement over the failed appointment of a new attorney-general, has weakened him and he might be less likely to take Netanyahu on.

Netanyahu for having made him a minister to oppose his benefactor so early in his tenure.

The management and staff of Allalouf Shipping Co. Ltd. extends their deepest sympathy to Alice Hahn on the passing of her MOTHER and offers their condolences to the family

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother RENE SEGAL The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, January 14, 1997 at the Savion cemetery, at 3:30 p.m. Daughter and son-in-law: Alice and Ronny Hahn Granddaughters: Naty and Tamy Son: Malcolm Segal and family

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Hadash's no-confidence motion fails

By LIAT COLLINS and DAVID RUDGE

The Knesset rejected a no-confidence motion last night, 35 to 53 with one abstention. Hadash filed the motion over the budget crisis in Arab municipalities.

Hadash MK Salah Salim said the municipalities are on the verge of collapse.

"The strike in the Arab municipalities has entered its second month. Hundreds of workers have not received their wages and the whole system is about to break down," Salim said. "The Arab municipalities permanently suffer from marked budgetary discrimination compared to the Jewish settlements and never receive what they deserve in real terms compared to their needs."

He said the Finance Ministry's solutions are only temporary and do not solve the problems.

Salim said the municipalities would continue to use all legal means possible to fight for the situation to be rectified.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa, in his response, said the situation of most local authorities is unsatisfactory.

"All sectors are coping with budget problems, including the Arab local councils," he said.

Suissa presented figures to show that grants to Arab local authorities had grown between 1991 and 1996 by 282% and stand at NIS 516 million.

"It's true there are gaps, but these cannot be fixed in one go because the government cannot afford the expense and the authorities are not built to handle a huge budget increase in one go. Responsibility dictates a gradual monitored policy over time," Suissa said.

The plenum discussion started low key, but heated up when Moleket leader Rehavam Ze'evi started to blast the government over its political policy, but not its handling of Arab local authorities. Ze'evi explained his abstention by saying he had no confidence in the government.

"You are liars. You are weak. You are cowards. You lack a political backbone and don't know what you want - other than to be in power," Ze'evi stated from the podium.

Meanwhile, striking Arab council heads are continuing their campaign to press the government to bail-out their debt-ridden local authorities after rejecting a compromise solution.

Another one-day closure of schools, kindergartens and municipal services in the 54 Arab towns and villages is planned for Thursday. Similar action was taken last Thursday, prompting a meeting between representatives of the striking council leaders and Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav.

Katzav, who is also the minister responsible for Arab affairs, proposed at the meeting that the Arab councils would be allocated a further NIS 160m. for regular budgets, spread over three years, and an additional NIS 40m. for development projects.

"We were very disappointed that the minister's proposal did not relate whatsoever to the biggest problem of the councils - the accumulated deficits - and this is primarily why we rejected it," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

Suleiman noted that the councils had together accumulated debts of NIS 420m.



Russian immigrants irate over lost savings

Russian immigrants swindled out of their savings demonstrate opposite the Finance Ministry yesterday with empty suitcases showing they have nothing left. They are demanding a meeting with the ministerial committee meant to solve the problem created when government agencies recommended unscrupulous companies to transfer their funds here. (Ariel Zerkov/Flash)

Yisrael Ba'aliya: We'll reject budget if immigrant doctors are dismissed

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction made its support for the state budget conditional on continued funding for immigrant doctors, the faction spokesman said yesterday.

Yisrael Ba'aliya yesterday sent urgent cables to the prime minister and to the finance and health ministers, demanding that the decision to dismiss 500 immigrant doctors be revoked.

"This is a blatant violation of the finance minister's commitments

given during the budget debates," the cable reads. "They were a condition for our support for the budget. This irresponsible decision will lead to irreparable damage not only to the absorption of immigrants, but to the entire health system."

The faction warned that the decision to dismiss the 500 doctors who are specializing "will undermine the relations within the coalition." The faction added that it would consider taking legal action.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein will meet tomorrow with the finance and health ministers over the issue. Edelstein said last night he would forgo any pay rises coming to him.

Yehoshua Matza has blamed Finance Minister Dan Meridor for the decision to dismiss the 500 doctors, saying that the latter failed to find an appropriate budget.

The Israel Medical Association has declared a work dispute over the dismissals.

ACRI petitions High Court on Hammer's delaying TV show on homosexuals

By EVELYN GORDON

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's decision to delay the screening of a program on homosexual youth.

The program, part of Educational TV's *Open Cards* series, was supposed to be shown in November, but Hammer delayed it, ostensibly so that he could review it himself. No screening date has yet been set, however, and last week his spokesman told the Knesset Committee because Hammer felt the program's message is inappropriate for youth.

The petition argued that the education minister has no authority to interfere with the programming on

Educational TV as he has authority only over administrative matters, such as budgets.

Furthermore, it said, Hammer's decision to delay the program constitutes censorship, which violates the principle of freedom of expression.

The petition also noted that about one-third of teenage suicides are related to homosexuality. A program that will enable homosexual teenagers to realize that they are not alone and give heterosexuals an understanding of their homosexual peers is therefore very important, it said.

ACRI filed the petition together with two other organizations: The Lesbian Feminist Community (KJaf) and the Association for the Protection of Individual Rights of Homosexuals, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel.

Knesset Committee for Science and Technology makes its debut, endorses Itzik as chairman

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Committee for Science and Technology at its inaugural meeting yesterday endorsed the appointment of MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) as chairman.

Science and Technology Minister Ze'ev Begin (Likud) addressed the committee and stressed its importance, saying the country must exploit the full potential science has to offer.

Begin made special mention of the Arab sector, saying there is great potential there, too.

"Today, out of 5,000 academic staff [in the sciences] only 25 are Arab researchers. This is an unhealthy situation and we must make an effort to promote the employment of researchers from the Arab population," Begin said.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky (Yisrael

Ba'aliya) said the desire to study, learn, and succeed has characterized the Jewish people throughout history. He noted the contribution of the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, saying it had doubled the number of engineers and scientists in Israel, giving the country one of the highest ratios of scientists in the world.

Science Ministry Director-General Zvi Yanai said the government's allocations in the field

lack balance. Out of the total allocation to research and development, he said, only 5 percent goes to research infrastructure serving the development of new technologies, in contrast to 20 percent in most developed countries.

MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), who is scheduled to replace Itzik in the chair after two years, stressed the need to use science and technology to protect the environment.

Nigerian pilgrims barred from Israel

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Interior Ministry announced yesterday that it is stopping all pilgrimage traffic from Nigeria.

The ministry took the step of refusing to grant visas to further pilgrims, ministry spokesperson Tovva Elinson said, after the charter airline which brings the pilgrims refused to take back to Nigeria a group of illegal Nigerian workers who are presently being detained here.

According to Elinson, the Nigerian government had agreed earlier to take this group

back on the first airplane bringing pilgrims.

On Sunday night, she said, the first such flight arrived and the detainees were waiting at the airport. However, after a delay, the ambassador refused to allow them onto the aircraft and it took off without them.

She said that the expulsion of illegal immigrants from Nigeria has been delayed for several months because there is no direct air-link between the two countries and no European country is willing to allow Nigerians in, even as transit passengers.

Traffic accidents kill four

By DAVID RUDGE

Four people were killed and two others were injured, one of them critically, on the country's roads yesterday.

The fatalities, in three accidents, brought to 22 the number of people killed on the roads since the beginning of the year.

Two persons died when a pickup truck crashed head-on into a car on the Shfaram-Nazareth road. Police said the pickup veered out of its lane, apparently to overtake a car in front of it, and crashed into the oncoming car.

The driver of the pickup, Sasson Shmueli, 39, of Moshav Tzipori,

and one of the car passengers, Salah Hujerat, 57, of the Beduin village Bir al-Maksur, were killed.

Two of Hujerat's sons, one of whom was driving the car, were badly injured.

On the road from Arad to the Dead Sea, a 47-year-old truck driver from Ashdod was fatally injured after he lost control of his vehicle and it veered off the road, overturned, and fell 15 meters.

A woman in her 50s died yesterday at Petah Tikva's Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, of injuries sustained that afternoon when she was hit by a taxi while trying to cross the Ge'a Highway.

Item contributed to this report.

Quake rocks North, coast

By DAVID RUDGE

An earthquake rocked parts of the North at midday yesterday and was felt along the country's coast as far south as Ashkelon. The quake's epicenter was close to that of the one that hit in October.

There were no reports of any injuries or damage here, although in some places the tremor was strong enough to shake buildings and rattle doors and windows.

The seismological institute in Holon reported that the earthquake registered 6.2 on the Richter scale and that its epicenter was about 70 kilometers south of Cyprus - around 300 km. from the northern coast. Normally, this would be sufficient to cause damage even from such a long way off. Experts noted, however, that the center

was deep in the bedrock several kilometers below the sea, which helped to mitigate the effects.

Even so, police and emergency services, as well as the seismological center, received numerous calls from the public.

"It was certainly felt throughout the length of the country and people reported that the quake had shaken and rattled objects," said Ra'an Gissim, spokesman for the National Infrastructure Ministry, which is responsible for the seismological institute.

"It was also felt along the coastline of the Mediterranean basin from southern Turkey to Egypt, but there were no immediate reports of any injuries or damage," he said.

"An after-shock of similar strength was felt and registered

around 12:45 p.m. again without, apparently, causing any injuries or damage.

On October 9, a similar earthquake, which registered 6.4 on the Richter scale, also shook the country, as well as Cyprus and other parts of the Mediterranean basin. Its epicenter was close to that of yesterday's quake.

According to experts, the region has been a center of seismological activity for millions of years. They wouldn't rule out the prospect of more quakes from the same areas.

There was no connection, however, with the earthquake which shook Eilat and parts of Egypt and Jordan over a year ago, causing extensive damage and casualties. The epicenter of that shock was in the Gulf of Eilat region, south of the holiday resort city.

Rain answers prayers

By DAVID RUDGE

Rain swept many parts of the country last night, breaking the winter drought and answering the prayers of farmers and religious leaders.

The rainfall, which took weather forecasters by surprise, was heavy in places and was expected to continue until this morning.

The wintry weather, which has been conspicuous by its absence most of the season, had been expected later in the week. Signs of its sudden advent caused the meteorological service to update the forecast - less than an hour before the rain actually started to fall.

The earlier forecast had been for unseasonably hot and dry weather, with the possibility of light rain in Eilat and the Arava region yesterday evening.

By 4 p.m., however, with the rain clouds already sweeping into the north and central regions, the

forecast was changed to the prospect of heavy showers, isolated thunderstorms and the risk of flooding in low-lying areas.

Religious leaders throughout the country have held prayers for rain in light of the drought that has afflicted the country over the past two months.

Farmers, especially in the south where reservoirs are virtually empty, have already lost millions of shekels worth of field crops because seeds have dried up in the soil.

The north has been less badly effected, although farmers have expressed growing concern over their field crops and the ripening of winter fruits which need water to fill them out.

The level of water in the Kinneret has been steadily dropping throughout the winter and is now only 1.40 metres from its low-level mark.

Hydrological experts met Sunday to discuss the situation,

but decided not to recommend any changes in the management of water resources, despite the drought so far this winter.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan is expected to defer taking any decision on officially declaring a drought - which would enable farmers to be compensated for lost crops - for a few more weeks in the hope that the winter will still produce at least average rainfall.

In the meantime, the updated forecast is for the overnight rain to die out in the course of today and be replaced by partly cloudy weather.

The winter, however, is slated to return in the course of tonight or early tomorrow morning, accompanied by a marked drop in temperatures and heavy rain which will turn to snow on Mt. Hermon. The cold, wet front, which according to the forecast will be felt in most parts of the country, is expected to last through to Friday morning.

Weizmann research may lead to new generation of Alzheimer's drugs

By JUDY SIEGEL

Weizmann Institute research is likely to advance the development of new drugs for Alzheimer's disease. A study, reported on in the January issue of *Nature Structural Biology*, demonstrates exactly how a substance from a moss used for centuries in Chinese folk medicine blocks a brain enzyme that may be involved in this common type of fatal dementia.

Prof. Joel Sussman, Dr. Michael Harel, Prof. Israel Silman and graduate student Mia Raves, all of the Rehovot institute, worked in close collaboration with Prof. Alan Kozikowsky of Georgetown University and Dr. Yuan-Ping Pang of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida.

The team determined the three-dimensional structure of a complex comprising the natural substance Huperzine A (HupA) and the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE). HupA is extracted from the *Huperzia serrata* moss used in China in a medicine called *Qian*

Ceng Ta. Solving the puzzle involving the structure revealed a strikingly good fit between HupA and the enzyme and may, they suggest, provide a possible starting point for designing a new, improved generation of Alzheimer drugs.

"It's as if this natural substance were ingeniously designed to fit into the exact spot in AChE where it will do the most good," noted Sussman, a crystallographer.

According to one theory, Alzheimer's patients' memory loss and other cognitive deficits are due to degeneration of nerve cells, which normally release the neurotransmitter. When there is too little AChE, the shortage is compounded by the action of the AChE, which breaks down the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. Two drugs recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for Alzheimer's - tacrine and E2020 - work by inhibiting AChE. HupA also inhibits AChE, but has a different chemical structure and is currently being investigated in China and elsewhere as a possible

Alzheimer's drug.

The fact that the HupA and AChE are so perfectly suited means that the Chinese herb could be potent even in small quantities and produce minimal side effects, said Silman, a neurochemist. In any case, HupA has very low toxicity.

The scientists worked with high-quality crystals of AChE derived from the torpedo, an electric fish that is one of the richest sources of the enzyme. Since there is very great similarity in the amino-acid sequence of torpedo and human AChE, it is likely that the torpedo's 3-D structure is a very good model of the human enzyme, he continued.

The HupA-AChE binding study was supported by the US Army Medical Research and Development Command, the Weizmann Institute's Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Structure and Assembly and the Scientific Cooperation of the European Union with Third Mediterranean Countries through the Ministry of Science.

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Sudan mobilizes after rebel attacks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir yesterday called for a mobilization of the army and civilian militia after rebel forces attacked towns on the Sudan-Ethiopia border.

A statement issued by the palace early in the morning said the forces must "defend... the homeland and deter the enemies of Islam and humanity."

The statement used the phrase "jihad."

Sudan's state-run radio and television were carrying only patriotic music yesterday, and several demonstrations were held in the capital in support of el-Bashir's call. Several hundred people were at each rally.

The mobilization came after rebels of John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army on Sunday attacked the Sudanese towns of Kurmuk and Qasan near the Ethiopian border, apparently wresting control from the Sudanese army.

The two towns are about 600 km southeast of the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

A statement issued early yesterday by the Sudanese armed forces general command accused Ethiopia of fighting with the Sudanese opposition.

A dispatch from Egypt's Middle East News Agency said the fighting for the towns Sunday involved "different kinds of artillery" fired from inside Ethiopian territory and lasted for six hours, died down then resumed for another four hours.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the remote region.

The Sudanese rebels reportedly managed to occupy a large swath around the border towns in Blue Nile state, MENA said.

Sudan has an active military force of about 89,000 and paramilitary units known as the Popular Defense Forces of about 15,000 men. The militia's reserve is about 60,000 strong.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army has been fighting since 1983 to try to win autonomy for the South's Christians and animists from the Islamic North. More than 1.3 million people have died in the fighting and resulting famines.

El-Bashir, who took power in a military coup in 1989, has vowed to end the uprising. He has made inroads into Garang's following by offering peace agreements to some of Garang's commanders and promising to enact a new constitution that would give the southerners exemptions from Islamic law.

Sudan has increasingly accused neighboring countries of intervening on behalf of the rebels in Sudan.

Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have soured since Ethiopia and Egypt accused Sudan of involvement in an attempt on the life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June 1995 in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Sudan has denied it.

Envoy: No crisis in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Reuters) — A US envoy said yesterday there was no crisis in Cyprus because its government had assured him it would not bring any part of a controversial anti-aircraft missile system to the divided island for at least 16 months.

"I believe that should effectively defuse this as a crisis issue for Cyprus," US State Department official Carey Cananough said after an hour-long meeting with President Glafcos Clerides yesterday morning.

Turkey — which has occupied the northern third of the island since 1974 — threatened military action several times last week to stop deployment of the S-300 system which the Cypriot government said it would acquire from Russia.

Cananough, director of the State Department's Southern European Affairs Department, made the comments before travelling north of the ceasefire line slicing through the island for talks with Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

Turkey's armed forces chief, General Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, arrived in northern Cyprus yesterday saying Greek Cypriot plans were the "culmination of provocation and over-militarization."

"Let no one forget what the real purpose is," he told reporters.

"You cannot show a weapon that has a range of 150 to 160 km as a defensive system. This is not acceptable and it cannot be taken lightly," Karadayı said.

Denktaş's administration, declared a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in 1983 and recognized only by Ankara, has also said it will move people into Varosha, a now empty tourist resort once mainly owned by Greek Cypriots but now in Turkish held territory.

Cananough said he had not asked Clerides to cancel the purchase, which was criticized by Washington, but had been assured during their one-hour meeting it would not be deployed soon.

"What he (Clerides) did do though, and I find this very helpful, is he gave us assurances that not a single component of those missile systems will be brought to this island in the next 16 months," Cananough said.

The Cypriot government has refused to back down on the deal, saying the missiles are needed to defend the majority Greek Cypriot-populated south of the island if there is an air raid by Turkey.

It says 16 months is ample time for international mediators to concentrate on a political settlement to the long-standing Cyprus dispute. It has however said the installation of the system will go ahead if progress towards a solution or demilitarization — a key component of the solution — of the whole of the island is not achieved by then.

ANALYSIS

Unrest in Serbia, Bulgaria stirs former comrades

By ALISON SMALE

VIENNA — Almost eight weeks of anti-government protests in Serbia have helped spark a similar revolt in Bulgaria, stirring emotions and memories of 1989's upheavals across the former Soviet bloc.

"A new revolutionary wave is sweeping through southeastern Europe," said Sándor Lezsák, head of Hungary's main opposition party, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, which has sent a delegation to join Belgrade's protests.

Belgrade students and opposition supporters across Serbia have confronted and circumvented heavily armed riot police. Serbia's protests have been largely peaceful, but one demonstrator died after being beaten.

The latest protests echo the 1989 revolts that ousted hard-line Communist governments in several East European countries. For those who also endured decades of harsh communist rule, admiration is tinged with great personal emotion.

"Those Yugoslavs, they are great," said

Boris Malkus, a 77-year-old Moscow engineer, after weeks of daily coverage on Russian television of the Belgrade protests. Talk of Belgrade's protests dominated Sofia for weeks before outrage with the government of former Communists, a wave of new price hikes and general poverty drove people into the streets there, too.

In both countries, the ravaged economy has stoked anger.

Serbia has declined rapidly under a regime that bankrolled wars in Croatia and Bosnia and resulted in international sanctions. Bulgaria has descended into virtual bankruptcy under the government of ex-Communists in power since December 1994.

Many workers in Serbia have not received wages for months. Bulgaria's average monthly wage, hammered by 300 percent inflation and the daily fall of the leva national currency, is the equivalent of around \$20.

Students in Belgrade have lent many of the engaging touches to the Serbian protests: costumes and masks of despised leaders; walking like prisoners; distributing

flowers in police. Sofia's students borrowed many of those touches when they joined Bulgaria's protests Sunday.

Those protests had turned nasty already on their fourth day, Friday.

A wave of anger propelled demonstrators into parliament. Police firing guns and wielding batons then injured scores when they beat a path out for legislators trapped inside.

The violence carried its own message to other East Europeans.

Discussing how President Boris Yeltsin's health problems destabilize Russia's fragile post-Communist system, the host of Russia's influential IZOGI weekly news program, Yevgeny Kislov, pointed to the Bulgarian unrest as an example of how things can spin out of control.

Some former Communist countries — the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland — appear well on the way to free market democracy. But they see in the unrest a mirror image of their own 1989 revolts, which were not completed in the Balkans.

Neo-Communists remained in power in

Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, and ex-Communist general Franjo Tudjman heads an authoritarian nationalist government in Croatia.

Those who have endured authoritarian rule know that they are only a stroke of fortune away from being in the same predicament as Serbs and Bulgarians.

Czech President Vaclav Havel said he was watching events in Belgrade "very carefully."

"I see many parallels with what we have been doing, and I guess it is clear which side I am on, where my heart is. It is on the side of freedom, democracy — and I support everything that goes in that direction in Serbia."

Hungary's government and the opposition party also insisted that Serbian leaders respect democratic rules.

In Romania, the one Balkan country where anti-Communists won power through the ballot box last November, citizens are preoccupied with changes. The government says it will have to raise prices and impose more hardships if it is to bring genuine change.



Two demonstrators show their support for Paula Jones outside the US Supreme Court building in Washington yesterday. (Reuters)

Clinton bids to delay harassment case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to head off a major embarrassment until he leaves office, President Clinton is asking the Supreme Court to delay a lawsuit that accuses him of sexually harassing a woman in 1991.

Just one week before Clinton's second-term inauguration, the justices yesterday were weighing whether Paula Jones can pursue her claim now or must wait until the president becomes a private citizen in four years.

"What's at stake here is reputation," said Joseph Cammarata, a lawyer for Jones. Appearing yesterday on ABC television, broadcast nationwide, he said: "She wants her good name and reputation restored."

Clinton is arguing that more is at stake.

"The president, unlike any other federal official, has the sole responsibility for an entire branch

of the federal government," Clinton's lawyer, Robert S. Bennett, said in court papers seeking to delay Jones' suit.

"Even if a president ultimately prevails, protracted personal damages litigation would make it impossible for him to devote his undivided energies to one of the most demanding jobs in the world," Bennett said.

An attorney for Jones, Gilbert K. Davis, said in court papers that the former Arkansas state employee is entitled to her day in court now.

The Constitution's framers "did not intend to place the president above the law, and thus did not confer upon presidents any personal privileges akin to those of a monarch," Davis wrote.

The crowd of people who braved frigid temperatures for a chance to be one of about 100 admitted into public seating was far smaller than other highly publicized cases.

The court bans television and radio coverage of its courtroom proceedings, but by early morning eight news media satellite trucks were parked outside to facilitate from-the-scene reports.

The justices are expected to decide by July whether Clinton

— already enmeshed in Whitewater and fund-raising investigations — also must answer Jones' lawsuit while in office.

Jones says Clinton propositioned her in a Little Rock hotel

room in 1991 when he was governor of Arkansas. She says he exposed himself and that she can identify "distinguishing characteristics" of his private parts.

Clinton has denied her allegation and said he cannot recall ever meeting her. Jones sued in 1994 and is seeking \$700,000 in damages.

The president's lawyer tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a settlement before Jones sued.

The Supreme Court, ruled in 1982 that presidents cannot be sued for damages involving their official duties, even after they leave office. The prospect of such lawsuits could harm a president's decision-making, the court said.

But the justices have never said whether a sitting president can be forced to answer a lawsuit over acts unrelated to his official duties.

President says diplomat has drunk driving history

TBILISI (AP) — The Georgian diplomat blamed for a fatal car crash in Washington has a history of drunk driving, President Eduard Shevardnadze revealed yesterday.

Shevardnadze has said that if U.S. investigators find sufficient evidence against the official, he is prepared to waive diplomatic immunity for Giorgi Makharadze, the No. 2 envoy at the Georgian Embassy in Washington.

"My decision is tough, but I think it's fair and correct," Shevardnadze said in his regular yesterday radio address.

"I regret to say he was also involved in other serious (traffic) violations. According to my information, he was fined three times for drunk driving," he said.

Police say Makharadze may have been going as fast as 80 miles per hour (130 kilometers per hour) near Washington's Embassy Row when he was involved in a five-car crash Jan. 4 that killed Jovianne Waltrick of Kensington, Maryland. Police have also said the accident may have been alcohol-related.

U.S. prosecutors have said Makharadze could be charged with negligent homicide or second-degree murder.

"When the investigation is over, we'll be able to make a conclusion on the degree of his guilt," Shevardnadze said.

As a diplomat, Makharadze enjoys immunity from prosecution, but the United States asked Georgia to waive the immunity. Shevardnadze says he is prepared to do so.

"For me, the moral aspect of the matter is more important than any conventions and agreements under which diplomats are entitled to privileges," said Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister.

Over the weekend, Shevardnadze issued a statement over the weekend saying it was time to rethink the entire system of diplomatic immunity.

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Royal statesmanship

SUNDAY'S bold mission by Jordan's King Hussein was an act of true statesmanship that should set an example for another would-be leader of the peace process, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. By visiting Gaza and Tel Aviv, the king risked his personal prestige and, unlike his attendance at the soap Washington summit last October, the risk was apparently paid off.

One must not forget that Hussein traveled to Tel Aviv at a time when the mood in Jordan is far from enthusiastic about peace with Israel. Just last week, the first Israeli trade fair in Amman met with such protest that it took a massive police presence to keep order. The path of least resistance — which is the path of most leaders — would have been to sit back, wait, and not risk the antagonism that upstaging Egypt, which has been playing a mostly negative role in the talks of late, might cause.

Indeed, instead of attempting to bridge gaps between the Palestinians and Israel, Egypt seems at times to be "more Palestinian than thou" — urging Arafat not to compromise in the negotiations. The Egyptians, for example, said that it would not be acceptable to them if the Palestinians compromised on the Oslo dates for further redeployments or on a Palestinian Police presence in Hebron's Machpela Cave.

According to former ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, in a weekend article in Yedioth Aharonot, the Egyptians are deliberately attempting to keep the peace process on a low burner. If it is going too well, they move to slow it down; if they think it is about to fall apart, they help bring it back from the brink.

This approach is dangerous. The peace process is not on such solid footing that it can afford a major player such as Egypt dragging on it from the outside. The Egyptians must be challenged with the question, "Who's afraid of peace?" Not King Hussein, who realizes that even a pot on a low burner will boil over after a while.

Meanwhile, some members of the coalition seem to have just now gotten around to reading the Oslo agreement — and the prime minister's lips. The requirement for three further redeployments, increasing Palestinian control over the rural areas where two-thirds of the Palestinians live, is written in black and white in the Oslo agreement. And Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has clearly expressed his intention to abide by Oslo. Yet members of the National Religious Party and the Third Way are expressing shock that Netanyahu would now commit to a specific date for the critical third redeployment: August 1998.

The fact is that the agreement on this date is a

substantial achievement for both sides and for the health of the pact as a whole. Netanyahu has managed to postpone the final redeployment by almost a year from the date built into Oslo. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has managed to lock the new government into the principle of redeployments, and into a specific date.

The redeployments are still slated to conclude before the May 1999 end date for final status talks, which is not to Israel's advantage. But the instability caused by forcing Israel to give up most of its territorial cards before final status talks have taken hold has been significantly reduced. To diehard opponents of Oslo this may not seem like much, but it is a serious achievement for someone working himself out of a diplomatic hole.

The shrill cries from coalition members that Oslo's redeployments will lead Israel to a return to the 1967 borders are unfounded. There might well have been a greater risk of this under the previous government, but even then it would not have been because of the redeployments alone.

Oslo's provision claiming that the interim phase dictates nothing regarding final status is disingenuous, but neither is the opposite true. The borders and degree of sovereignty of the Palestinian entity are still very much to be determined, and the legacy of the interim agreement is only one item influencing the outcome.

The most important factor going into the final status talks is the degree of unity within Israel. While it can be helpful for Netanyahu to have some opposition from his right flank, opposition can be constructive or destructive. The cabinet's right wing needs to come up with realistic ways of making the best of the reality of Oslo, rather than acting as every turn as if Oslo can be ignored.

The opposition can also do its part by putting the interests of the country — and of peace — above the temptation to worsen the government's position at every opportunity. If Netanyahu comes forward and tries in earnest to build a national consensus, as he should, there will be opposition voices seeking to spurn him, arguing privately that Labor should not "bail Bibi out." This would be a tragic choice.

King Hussein this week demonstrated the power of statesmanship to make a difference in a world in which none of the outcomes is guaranteed. President Mubarak should take note that it is not possible to lead with one foot on the gas and the other on the brakes. Israel's own leaders — on both sides of the political spectrum — should learn that the political courage it takes to forge consensus could well pay off, not just for their party, but for the country and the region.

OPINION



A selective myopia

THE other day there was a demonstration in Nablus marking a year since the death of "The Engineer" Yihye Ayyash, the Palestinian responsible for the murder of over 50 Israelis. It drew an estimated crowd of 15,000, who engaged in calls for further terrorist attacks on Israel.

The next day a similar rally was held at Bir-Zeit University near Ramallah; this one featured the simulated blowing up of an Israeli bus.

The Israeli Left had nothing to say about these events. But it jumped into another round of exhortation of Prime Minister Netanyahu, this time over his abortive choice of attorney-general.

In recent weeks the Left has also strongly condemned Rabbi Eliezer Waldman for calling on religious soldiers to disobey orders to withdraw from West Bank locations; implicated Israel's national-religious school system in the action of extremist Noam Friedman, who went on a shooting spree in Hebron; and protested the placement of the gravestone of Israeli mass murderer Baruch Goldstein at the entrance to Kiryat Arba and the treatment of the spot as a shrine by small numbers of Israelis.

These are all legitimate criticisms. But why isn't the Left more disturbed about what happened at Nablus and Bir-Zeit?

Back at the time of the Gulf War, Palestinians in Nablus and elsewhere danced on roofs in jubilation over Iraqi Scud attacks on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

As I recall, left-wing leader Yossi Sarid reacted with indignation, saying that Palestinians "would have to look for him" after the war.

MK Sarid: Isn't blowing up a model of an Israeli bus, while cheering wildly, even worse than dancing on roofs? Can we assume that you've faxed a sharply-

P. DAVID HORNIK

worried protest to Yasser Arafat, warning him that the peace process cannot continue unless such gross displays cease?

What if, instead of handfuls of Israelis praying quietly at Goldstein's grave, 30,000 of them (there are about twice as many Israelis as Palestinians in Israel and the territories) were to hold a memorial rally for Goldstein in

While the Left treats the Right as the enemy, it turns a blind eye to Palestinian barbarism

which they simulated his murderous rampage in the Machpela Cave and gleefully promised further such attacks on Palestinians? Imagine, moreover, such a rally being held in broad daylight, on Israeli territory (at a university, no less), yet not eliciting a peep of protest from the prime minister, or anyone in his government.

Sarid and his friends would have plenty to say about such an (unimaginable) outrage.

Confronted with such arguments, left-wingers sometimes explain that the purpose of the peace process is actually separation. If many Palestinians harbor such hatred of us, they say, why should we want to rule over them? Why not have a clean, final divorce?

But if it were really that simple, we could withdraw unilaterally from Judea and Samaria and be done with the Palestinians — some-

thing no one in Israel advocates. Nablus and Ramallah are not, after all, remote reaches of "Greater Israel"; they are our backyard.

THE whole purpose of the tortuous, US-mediated negotiations is to devise arrangements whereby Israelis can supposedly live with a modicum of security after entrusting the territories to Arafat.

At the present pivotal stage of the process, where the main issue is no longer Hebron, but whether Israel will withdraw from virtually all the territories by late 1997, 1998, or 1999, the Left needs to decide whether its real enemies are the over 50 percent of Israelis who are deeply suspicious of this process, or the Palestinian and Arab hatred and violence that create that suspicion.

The writing is on the wall. Three years after the "historic" peace ceremony on the White House lawn, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine are flourishing on Palestinian Authority soil. Arafat himself keeps calling for jihad, and his "police force" is already an army of at least 50,000.

If this is the situation now, when Arafat supposedly has incentives to behave well so as to encourage further Israeli concessions, any reasonable extrapolation would conclude that things will get far worse once he controls far more land, his army is much larger, and he no longer has even an ostensible need to win brownie points.

At that point, even the Israeli Left might discover that there are worse things in heaven and on earth than Rabbi Waldman's controversial edicts and the premier's dubious appointments.

But it will be too late.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

Mess of misconceptions

ISRAEL'S familiarity with the Arab world is unique among "Western" countries, yet our policy makers have repeatedly failed to translate it into effective policy. The result is that Israel has paid dearly over the last quarter-century for a number of basic misconceptions.

In 1973, it thought the Arab states would never attack because of their strategic inferiority; in 1982, it thought it could alter the regional order at Palestinian and Syrian expense; and in 1987 it believed that the 20-year status quo in the West Bank and Gaza could be maintained indefinitely, at minimal cost.

In less than six months, the Netanyahu government has made an honorable contribution to this catalogue of faulty and dangerous thinking.

Misconception No. 1: The Palestinian issue carries little weight in Arab states' policy calculations.

To be sure, once Arafat had signed agreements with Israel, there was no reason for most Arab states, to be "more Catholic than the Pope." However, Netanyahu and his advisers failed to understand that Arab steps toward normalization were conditioned on further Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement, for both Arab domestic and inter-Arab reasons.

The freeze in normalization, Mubarak's loss of trust in Netanyahu, and the escalation of tensions with Syria are all warning signs of a perilous slide back toward conflict.

Nowhere was the government's failed conception more apparent than with Jordan. Netanyahu mistakenly thought that the peace treaty and Jordan's ongoing fear of Palestinian nationalism would result in an and-PLO alliance, including on the issue of Jerusalem.

Instead, the government's loose talk of expanding settlements and

BRUCE MADDY-WEITZMAN

altering the Oslo framework and, especially, the opening of the Hasmonan tunnel, drove Jordan back into Palestinian and Arab arms.

Misconception No. 2: Israel is merely a bystander in the current struggle between moderate, pragmatic forces in the Arab world and extremist, mostly Islamic fundamentalist ones — which, according

The Netanyahu government may be starting to learn that faulty thinking has its price

to Prime Minister Netanyahu in a recent Ha'aretz interview, are already the stronger.

In fact, any Islamic fundamentalist version of the old American "domino theory" has already been proven false; no Arab regime is in danger of being swept away by an "Islamic tide."

Certainly the outcome of Arab domestic struggles will ultimately be determined from within the Arab world, and only over an extended time period, however, progress toward a durable Arab-Israeli settlement is a necessary condition for Arab governments, serving as a springboard for closer political and economic ties with the West. These, in turn, will buy them time to address their acute domestic problems.

Thus, contrary to government thinking, Israel's policies, and the course of Arab-Israeli relations, will contribute to the outcome of the modernist-fundamentalist struggle in the Arab world.

This makes it in Israel's overriding interest to see the peace process through to its conclusion.

Misconception No. 3: The Middle East's inherent instability and likely eventual nuclearization necessitates Israel's refraining from additional territorial concessions.

However, the West Bank and Golan Heights provide no protection whatsoever from Syrian, Iraqi or Iranian missiles. Achieving formal contractual peace with adequate security arrangements and incrementally deepening Arab-Israeli economic and societal links will help insulate Israel from whatever negative regional developments might arise.

Ending the state of war with its Arab neighbors will significantly reduce the temptation of Iran or Iraq to exploit the Arab-Israeli arena for their own ends. Misconception No. 4: Israel's Arab citizens' "inevitable" irredentist and Islamist aspirations can only be contained by blocking the creation of a Palestinian state.

But the failure to achieve a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace — and the resulting strengthening of radical and Islamist tendencies throughout the region and in the immediate Israeli-Palestinian environments — poses a far greater threat to Jewish-Arab amity within Israel.

In any case, the views of Israel's Arab citizens toward the state will be determined by two factors: the degree to which their legitimate demands for equality are met by the authorities; and the course of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

One suspects that the imminent Hebron agreement indicates that the Netanyahu government has begun to learn the price of some of its misconceptions. One wonders how much more of a learning process is necessary, and what the costs along the way will be.

The author is a senior research associate at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University.

Get real

GWYNNE DYER

I don't normally commit plagiarism, but occasionally another journalist has an idea so good that it's worth ripping off and spreading around the planet immediately.

Such a one is David Nicholson-Lord, who recently phoned up British bookmakers William Hill and asked them to quote the odds on 10 different ways for the world to end.

William Hill set to work polling the experts, and the results were splashed across a recent Sunday magazine of the Independent.

Interestingly, the trendiest new ways for the world to end got the shortest shrift. Overpopulation, for example, was given odds of 25 million-to-one against. That means if you laid a bet of 10 pounds sterling on that proposition with William Hill today and turned out to be right, they would pay you a quarter of a billion pounds when it happens.

Are they being generous, or just cunning? Well, if you consider how the bookies have defined the end of the world, you begin to see the method in their madness.

They would only have to pay out if, between now and the year 2097, the world fell to a population of only 1,000 people.

Fair enough. You could hardly say the world has ended if there are still tens of thousands of people in it. But this definition does let William Hill off the hook a little, for it's very hard to get down from six billion people to only one thousand by any known means.

Among the disasters that might do it, the final cause quite literally cannot be over-population. Only a much more specific calamity like war or pestilence could get us down below a billion or two.

The same logic relegates a couple of other favourite doomsday scenarios to the also-rans. Pollution is a million-to-one against, drought is 100,000-to-one against, and climate change and famine both come in at 75,000-to-one against.

The end of the human race? It's unlikely

These phenomena may cause us huge problems during the next century, bringing vast misery and mass death, but it's hard to see how any of them could wipe out the human race. Indeed, at a mere billion or two people, they would almost automatically cease to be problems.

What about the fashionable "coming global anarchy"? William Hill assesses that at 50,000-to-one against (generous; to my mind, as it's even harder to see how anarchy could wipe everybody out).

And there's the end of the world through the natural processes of the universe — the sun goes nova, we are sucked into a giant black hole, there is another Big Bang — which they dismiss as a million-to-one against.

THAT leaves three major interesting contenders.

It's 500,000-to-one against an alien invasion before 2097, but a mere 10,000-to-one against a massive meteor strike like the one that probably took out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Pestilence does even better: only 5,000-to-one against new diseases virtually wiping out the human race. And war leads at only 500-to-one against.

Is this just wild speculation untamed by market discipline, since William Hill knew they would never really have to pay out? (If the world was down to 1,000 people, none of the firm's partners would likely be among the survivors, nor any of the punters who laid bets either. And in any case, a world so sparsely populated would have stopped using money).

But bookies do understand odds, and they take them seriously. The numbers they have come up with this time are far less alarming than the usual risk estimates, and the logic behind them is implacable.

Most prophets of doom have a professional interest in inflating estimates of risk, whether to draw attention to the danger they most fear, or simply to themselves.

Bookies are free of such motives, and they have concluded that the risk of the human race being effectively wiped out during the next century is very small.

The only dangers they took really to heart were the old ones: war, disease, and the oldest threat of all — meteor bombardment from outer space.

But global warming? The "clash of civilizations"? Coming global anarchy? Get real.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist and historian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Sir, — It is now a matter of utmost urgency that a ministry of information be established. It should be headed by someone of outstanding stature who must be supported by experienced staff appointed for ability rather than political background.

THE JAPANESE MIND

expresses a Japanese "empathy for Israel based on a sense of a shared burden of being victims of atrocities (the Holocaust of Hiroshima)."

DISASTER

their cities or into and out of Israel safely. The Jews in border towns will similarly be exposed.

THE JAPANESE MIND

Sir, — In Yosef Goeli's report on the recent Japan-Israel dialogue, "The Rising Sun in the Holy Land" (December 20), the Japanese mind is revealed.

DISASTER

Sir, — So now we have it. Netanyahu has no intention or ability to stop the Oslo process. Soon there will be another two or three million Arabs living in Judea and Samaria. They will clamor for water and work rights inside Israel. They will be fully armed with the most modern of weapons. The Jews of Judea and Samaria will not be able to travel between

THE JAPANESE MIND

What both men omit is that Japan was the aggressor in World War II. Furthermore, Mr. Yamamoto did not speak about Japanese atrocities in World War II.

DISASTER

genesis was supposed to explain the Jewish side of the story, the true history of Judea and Samaria. Finally, we had an avenue to the world's press to rebut the no-nonsense being spread by Arafat and crew.

TREACHEROUS STATEMENTS

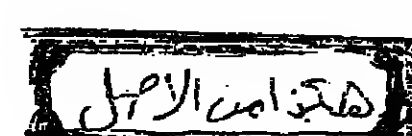
Sir, — As a gentle and a Bible-believing Christian, I am frequently angered by un-Christian statements directed against the Jewish State by church leaders. Two recent examples: the full-page advert in The New York Times on December 21 in which American clerics called on their president to pressure Israel into redividing Jerusalem and, also in December, a letter sent to Prime Minister Netanyahu containing the viciously anti-Israel resolutions adopted by the 208th General Assembly (1996) of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

TREACHEROUS STATEMENTS

Almost every Israeli knows that global networks like CNN and the BBC have for years abused their enormous communications powers when it comes to shaping the world's perceptions of, and opinions about Israel. Along with ABC's Peter Jennings, and the BBC's Lize Douset, CNN's Kessel and Walter Rodgers are among the worst.

TREACHEROUS STATEMENTS

across the globe, much to Mr. Kessel's barely concealed delight. These Israelis, along with the misguided "Women in Black" who are, as I write, protesting across the street against their country's "occupation" of what the world calls "Arab lands," would do well to remember that when Adolf Hitler set out to do away with the Jews, he did not differentiate for one moment between the devout Zionists, the ultra-Orthodox, the secular, or even the completely assimilated. They were Jews, and as Jews they went to Auschwitz together.



Jerusalem Post
et real
TYNNE DYER

Heady days

Reviving the innocence of rock 'n' roll

IN TUNE

By DAVID BROWN

The soundtrack to the Tom Hanks film *That Thing You Do!* is at times reminiscent of those great old *National Lampoon* musical parodies which captured imitations of famous rockers in wicked detail. It works simultaneously as a whimsical period piece and a solid offering of top-notch British invasion-era rock. Hanks and company have the genres down pat, from the Phil Spector girl-group sound of *The Chantrelles* and the instrumental surf rock of *The Saturn 5*, to the punky garage rock of *The Vicksburgs*. You can tell they had a great time making this record. Then of course you have *The Wonders* - who are pretty wonderful. If you've been listening



Tom Hanks (third left) and The Wonders

That Thing You Do

THE WONDERS and others (MIMC)

to the radio the past couple weeks, you may have thought a long-lost Beatles song had been unearthed. "That Thing You Do" perfectly encapsulates the innocence and excitement of those heady days when rock 'n' roll was opening up new doors for listener and performer alike. Their other offerings do not fall far behind the nerve of the title song, with "I Need You" in particular possessing the qualities most retro-power poppers would die for. While a number of musicians are credited, including John Mellencamp drummer Kemy Aranoff, and NYC vocalist Mike Viola, it's more fun to think of *The Wonders* and their other fictional label mates as real people. Perhaps the major accomplishment of this project is that it will induce a new generation of fans

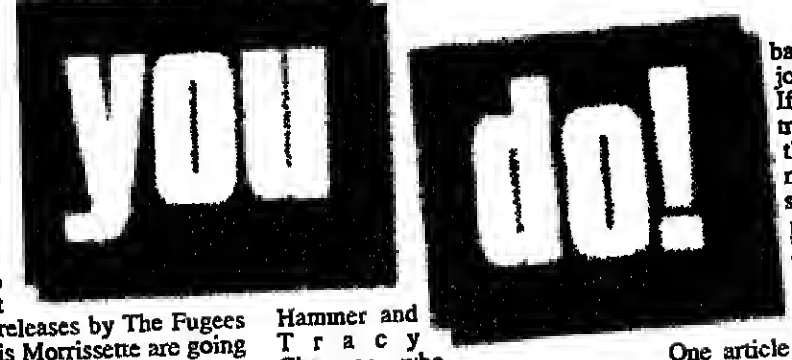
to investigate the endless treasure trove of mid-'60s rock. Left of the dial One of the few pleasures of a recent enforced vacation in Galilee was the chance to acquaint myself with Kol Rega, the Afila area's local radio station, and its great Sunday night programming. Beginning at midnight, a North American immigrant named Mike Gould transforms the station into the equivalent of a US classic rock station, with a slant towards headbangers. During his three-hour stint, you can hear the gamut, from the '70s (Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd)

to the '80s (Van Halen, Joe Walsh, Def Leppard) to the '90s (Suede, Pearl Jam). Gould also injects a homey co-air style, mixing English and Hebrew adeptly. It's not quite college radio, but it's a refreshing taste of the old country. Waiting for a Miracle A recent *New York Times* feature warned that the golden era of the music industry has passed by, with fragmentation in the pop world resulting in the decline of mega-million selling blockbusters. I say good riddance. The relative commercial failure of 1996 releases by rock

giants like REM, Pearl Jam and Hootie & The Blowfish is probably the best thing that could happen to the industry, and its fans. A od for those who think that the next releases by The Fugees and Alanis Morissette are going to match their debut efforts, think for a second of MC Hammer and Tracy Chapman, who have settled, respectively into

magazine, accurately states that such singularly talented individuals as Neil Young, Elvis Costello and Bruce Springsteen would probably never have been allowed to develop into major artists if they had started in the '90s, because they would have been dropped from their labels after only a record or two. If we've ever going to find the Youngs and Costellos of today, the record companies will have to drop their illusions of a "next big thing" and once again start looking for the "next gifted thing"

bankruptcy and a journeyman career. If the music industry stops thinking in the quick-fix manner, it adopted ever since the multi-hit pattern beguoo by Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, then it can begin nurturing original artists. One article in a recent music



Hammer and Tracy Chapman, who have settled, respectively into

magazine, accurately states that

DANCE REVIEW

Treading shallow water

By ORA BRAFMAN

Three duets saved an otherwise dreary evening with the Bat-Dor company. One can always count on Nils Christie to come up with a well-thought-out work, coherent structure and clean spatial lines. *Sync*, Shira Shririm, Ring, Bat-Dor Dance Co. Nils Christie, Philippe Trebet, Anis Brud, Noga Theater, Tel Aviv His ability to produce an aesthetic stage environment regularly results in work containing some merit. In *Sync*, his latest work at Bat-Dor, this happened, with the duet by Miriam Kescherman and Vladislav Masnyenkov. The third duet in *Shirashirim*, by the French choreographer Philippe Trebet, and danced by

Nikki Johns and Masnyenkov, spiced up a work that was otherwise lacking in the energy demanded by the choreographer. Trebet builds his work on intensive, waves of awareness released by looseness of limbs. This tension was missing most of the time, as passages of intensity were smoothed unnecessarily, possibly because the company's dancers were unprepared for the choreographer's subtleties. Brud's *Ring* saves a variety of martial arts and contact sports, from the Brazilian Capoeira movement to Chinese circus. A funny yet delicate duet by Nina Aptekar and Alexander Mishak captured the complexity of a warm, human relationship. Bat-Dor's evenings are never too bold or daring. The name of the game is playing it safe; the consequence is treading shallow water.



The Batsheva Dance Company's 'Z/Na' by Ohad Naharin is about to embark on an international tour. (Gadi Dagon)

Israel's jubilee in dance

By HELEN KAYE

A new full-length dance by artistic director Ohad Naharin will be the centerpiece of the Batsheva Dance Company's 1997 season. The work, as yet untitled, will open Israel's 50th birthday celebrations in Tel Aviv. The projected premiere is one of four new choreographies that the company will mount during the '97 season. The other choreographers are Edouard Lock, Amanda Miller, who has worked extensively with Frankfurt Ballet's William Forsythe, and Jiri Kylian of the Netherlands Dance Theater, with which Batsheva has had an ongoing 10-year collaborative relationship. The new work is a BD/NDT co-

production, the first of its kind in Israeli dance. A 40-minute version will premiere at NDT in Holland in October, and BD will present the evening-long work at the Tel Aviv performing Arts Center in November. Kylian has also authorized the performance of his *No Sleep until Dawn of Day*, a dance he created for NDT's, NDT's over-40 company. The BD/NDT collaboration is part of Batsheva's ongoing and determined international outreach. Another long-term project involves collaboration between companies, choreographers, and festivals in Canada, Belgium and Holland. Naharin is currently shuttling between Tel Aviv and Amsterdam where he's working on music for his piece with Orkater, two young musicians who create and perform music on instruments

they build themselves. The company will take *Z/Na* to Paris and Amsterdam in March. The summer tour of Europe will take in the Innsbruck and Salzburg Festivals, as well as performances in Prague and in Saloniki, Greece. In September, BD will go to Tokyo for the first time with *Z/Na* and *Anaphase*. BD's NIS 9.6 million budget for 1997 represents little change in real terms from the NIS 9.1m. it received last year. The money has to cover BD's expenses and that of the six-year-old offshoot, the Batsheva Ensemble. Conceived as an incubator of young talent for the parent company, the ensemble has become a vibrant entity in its own right, and "it frustrates me that the establishment is unwilling to support it independently," says Naharin.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Red Sea requiem wows the crowds

The Red Sea International Music Festival, starring the Kirov Opera's music director Valery Gergiev, was one of the most exciting musical events in the annals of Israeli culture. The first such joint event between Israel and Jordan, it hosted concerts in Eilat and Aqaba, which went down especially well with concert-lovers who traveled from Tel Aviv. Berlioz's dramatic symphony *Romeo et Juliette*, not an easy work to either perform or listen to, was much appreciated. Gergiev conducts in an unconventional way - without a baton - and he creates sensational clusters of sounds. And his is a first-rate orchestra, featuring many youngsters. The real highlight was the Verdi Requiem. This was a requiem for the soul, a prayer from the bottom of the heart, pure music making in which orchestra, chorus and four excellent soloists created a majestic aura. Michael Aizenstadt

in the Liturgica Festival, the combined choirs (of the Bavarian, Stuttgart and Leipzig Radio choirs) opening to Brahms's Requiem, conducted by Lorin Maazel, bordered on the miraculous. The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra's playing was impeccably consolidated and sensitive. This was a performance that created a rarefied musical as well as a profound spiritual experience. The Kantorei Kassel-Kirchdirmold choir from Germany, conducted by Michael Gerish, produced an amazingly soft, mellow and caressing sound, except for occasional high notes of the sopranos. The enunciation was clear enough to render the texts intelligible even in the most involved contrapuntal settings. Mendelssohn's psalms were performed in true Romantic style, with abundant nuances of dynamics. Samson sounded vital and energetic under conductor Nicholas McGegan, with less of the usual

and heaviness than Handel performances are often associated with. The chief hero was the Scottish National Orchestra Chorus. Obviously feeling at home in this music, its vast yet well-rounded mass of sound and enthusiastic, exciting climaxes personalized Handel's and the work's grandeur. The soloists did not. Except for baritone Klaus Mertens, as Manco

and Harapha - the cast's outstanding personality. In the title role, tenor Jamie MacDougall was disappointing with his strained and uncommunicative voice. But the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra proved that its frequently concealed potential for polished, even glamorous playing can be realized under the direction of an inspired conductor. Ury Eppstein

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS		ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#2	1	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#3	14	V/A	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#4	6	NO DOUBT	TRAGIC KINGDOM
#5	5	EHUD BANAI	OD MEAT
#6	4	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#7	11	V/A	BEST OF THE BEST OF '96
#8	3	SOUND TRACK	EVITA
#9	8	RITA	COLLECTION
#10	7	SIMPLY RED	GREATEST HITS
#11	21	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATMINUT
#12	10	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#13	12	JULIO IGLESIAS	TANGO
#14	18	FRIENDS OF NATASHA	LIVE
#15	RE	CAT STEVENS	VERY BEST OF

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

The Israel Camerata Jerusalem

Giving the Tone
Musical Director
Avner Biron
The 1996-97 season

Tel Aviv Museum of Art
21.130 at 20:30
Purchases of tickets through:
Tel Aviv Museum of Art
Tel: 03-6961297
Wiz Auditorium, Rehovot
23.197 at 20:30
Purchases of tickets through:
Wiz Auditorium
Tel: 08-9342311
Loas: Tel: 08-9458890
Henry Crown Hall, Jerusalem
25.197 at 20:30
Purchases of tickets through:
Loas: Tel: 02-6250800

Avner Biron, conductor

Alexander Korsantia, piano
Mozart
Piano concerto in E flat major, K. 271
Haydn
Symphony no. 83 in G minor, "The Hen"
Vaughan Williams
Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis
Brahms
Serenade no. 2, op. 16
Concert no. 2 in the Instrumental Series
Concert no. 4 in the Great Series

BUSINESS

in brief

Ministerial meeting on privatization postponed

The planned ministerial meeting scheduled for yesterday to discuss companies to be privatized during the coming three years, was postponed because of the prime minister's diplomatic commitments. A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office said a new date has yet to be set. *David Harris*

Meridor leads delegation to Jordan

Finance Minister Dan Meridor travels to Jordan today for talks with Crown Prince Hassan. Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabarini and other senior ministers on regional economic development. Seventeen civil servants and businesspeople are accompanying Meridor, who was invited to Amman by the crown prince. *David Harris*

Orna Bery appointed chief scientist

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday appointed Orna Bery the new chief scientist to replace Yehoshua Gleitman, who recently became the ministry director-general. Bery comes to the post from the private sector, where she was the copresident of Ornel. *David Harris*

Intel seeks tax exemption for R&D center

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has received a request from Intel Corp. for a two-year tax exemption for its research and development center, a ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Headquartered in Santa Clara, California, Intel, a market leader in the microcomputer components industry, has invested \$100 million in the center in Haifa. The branch is responsible for developing the company's most recently released Pentium computer chip.

A committee at the Ministry of Industry and Trade is currently evaluating Intel's request as well as the efficacy of granting such exemptions to international companies willing to set up local R&D centers.

If the ministry decides to grant a tax exemption to Intel's R&D center, it would set a precedent that could encourage other major international companies to set up significant R&D facilities in Israel.

experts said. Although several of the world's leading high-tech companies, such as Applied Materials, Analog Devices, Sandisk and Samsung, have set up local R&D centers over the past few years, these companies did not receive tax exemptions.

On average, these companies' investments in R&D centers totaled less than \$5m., a fraction of Intel's investment.

After developing the MMX chip, which improves the way video, audio and games work on personal computers, and processes real-time video and audio more effectively than earlier chips, the R&D center in Haifa became known as one of Intel's world-wide leading development centers.

Intel is currently building a \$1.6 billion factory in Kiryat Gat. The company received a 38% investment grant, or \$600m., from the government to set up the plant in the development town.

Central Bank: Slowdown continued in fourth quarter

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Economic activity in all major industries fell during the fourth quarter of 1996, following two quarters in which it remained unchanged, according to the Bank of Israel's seasonal survey of companies' activities published yesterday.

The survey of 650 companies shows that the most significant decrease was registered in hotel, trade and construction companies, most of which already suffered from a slowdown in the third quarter of the year.

A decline in local market sales was registered in the industrial sector, for the first time since the wave of immigrants in 1989, but productivity and industrial exports remained virtually unchanged. The signs of lower industrial activity were reflected in a drop in labor force and a reduction in supply of raw materials.

Most of the smaller industrial firms surveyed reported a

decline in productivity, while medium-sized and large firms reported stability.

The electronics and electricity branch registered a growth in productivity and exports. The most exceptional drop in productivity was detected in the food and beverage field, while the mining and mineral field suffered a drop in exports. Local market sales fell sharply in the textiles, metals, vehicles, paper products and printing fields.

In the trade sector, 61 percent of the companies surveyed reported that growth was stemmed because of the "economic situation in Israel."

In the construction sector, most of the companies reported a drop in building, especially in construction starts, continuing the trend from the second quarter. The larger firms reported unchanged activity, while the smaller firms reported a drop in production prices in dollar terms. Most of the companies surveyed blamed the decline in their business on

a decrease in demand and credit limitations.

In the tourism sector, most of the hotels reported a continued decrease in activity.

In related news, industrial exports totaled \$16.99 billion in 1996, up 5.2% from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The most exceptional pace of growth was detected in the high-tech sector, especially communications equipment and medical control equipment. The more traditional labor-intensive sectors, like textiles, registered a drop in exports.

Exports of diamonds rose 3.8% last year to \$4.09b. from \$3.94b. the previous year.

Exports to Europe grew 4% in 1996. Exports to England, Holland, Belgium and Ireland expanded while exports to Germany, Italy and France fell. Exports to the US and Canada rose 8% in 1996, similar to the previous year's growth rate. Exports to Japan fell 10%.



PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath (left) and Finance Minister Dan Meridor (right) approve a regional economic cooperation plan at the Treasury yesterday from the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy. Egypt and Jordan are also participating in the project. *(Ariel Jerozolimski)*

Shaath, Meridor launch regional business project

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Palestinian Authority Planning and International

Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath held their first joint news conference last night to launch the Middle East Competitive Advantage project under the auspices of the newly formed Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy.

The scheme, funded by the Dutch government but with the

promise of more money from its members, Israel, the PA, Egypt and Jordan, aims to assist each partner to attain rising living standards, through raising productivity and global competitiveness in industry.

The program, the brainchild of Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter, will initially compile research data to establish a benchmark assessment of each member. This will be followed by concrete national action plans in prioritized areas and prepare recommendations for regional cooperation.

In addition to the center's staff, representative teams for each of the members have also been set up. The Israeli team is led by ORT director-general Haim Ben-Ami.

The Egyptian group is headed by Economy and International Cooperation Ministry first undersecretary Faouk Shakweer, the Palestinian coordinator is deputy Planning Minister Samih Abid, and Jordan's senior representative is one of King Hussein's political advisers, Ali Kassay.

Keil steps up bid for Hapoalim

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

US investor Jeffrey Keil is to meet with government officials this week to discuss plans to purchase Bank Hapoalim, after having successfully raised about \$500m. through a private placement in the United States, one month ahead of schedule.

The government is offering for sale control of Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, as part of its privatization program. The Prime Minister's Office recently predicted a sale agreement would be reached before the end of 1997.

Keil recently raised \$500m. through a private placement in New York, launched in order to recruit investors for the limited partnership. US investment bank Lazard Freres, which is associated with Keil, invested \$250m. and a large insurance conglomerate, controlled by businessman Joe Steinberg, invested the remaining sum.

Keil, who in the past served as president of the Republic New York Corp., is scheduled to meet with MI Holdings, the government firm in charge of selling the state's banks,

and the Bank of Israel this week.

Capital market sources forecast the Keil group will submit a bid to purchase a 35% stake in Hapoalim, in partnership with Israeli businessman Eliezer Fishman, who initially submitted a bid to purchase control of the bank with other investors. Assuming Fishman does not take part in the consortium, MI Holdings will be required to publish a new tender for the sale of Bank Hapoalim.

According to the Keil-Lazard Freres partnership terms, Keil will serve as chairman of the bank and also be responsible for its management. The consortium is expected to apply for the Bank of Israel's approval for the purchase in the next few weeks.

The consortium's heads already control some of Bank Hapoalim's shares. About one month ago Keil purchased 3% of Bank Hapoalim from Herzog Ha'ovdim for \$52m., while Fishman acquired a 4.9% share about three years ago.

The Keil group's representative in Israel, Fishman, and the Bank of Israel were not available for comment.

India: Trade with Israel to triple by 2000

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Trade with India, excluding military deals, is expected to triple by the year 2000, a senior Indian official said yesterday. Trade volume totaled \$600 million in 1996, with a slight surplus of Israeli exports.

A large expansion in trade can be expected over the next two years, particularly in the spheres of agricultural products, chemicals and high-tech, according to Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for Asia Itzhak Shelef.

"There is a basis for doubling trade in the next two years," he said. Both sides have committed themselves to advancing economic cooperation, following President Ezer Weizman's visit to India.

"We now have to capitalize on the goodwill generated... there will be more visits by businessmen and we can expect further progress in about six months," an Indian source said.

Extensive cooperation is known to exist between the two air

forces, and Weizman promised to look into an Indian request for the posting of an air attaché to Delhi. During a visit to the Bangalore region, Weizman visited an air force base, military industries and India's space center - the last two, unaccompanied by journalists.

Despite ongoing media speculation in both countries about a possible free trade agreement, no such document was signed during the visit. However, other agreements were concluded on technical, industrial and agricultural assistance and cooperation, in addition to the renewal of a cultural and educational agreement.

Various joint ventures were also launched, including an Indo-Israeli Center for Agricultural Technology Assessment and Transfer in Delhi, a 1,000-acre cotton growing scheme north of Bombay, in conjunction with Degen Murrachot, and India's most modern medical diagnostic center employing Ebit's magnetic resonance imaging technology.

Israel Electric תורת החשמל

TENDER No. 96/1083

The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. (hereinafter: "the Corporation") hereby invites bids for the performance of civil engineering works on an area of 270 dunams for the construction of a gas turbine power station (four units with a total capacity of 560 MW), at the Gezer site near Ramla.

Time for performance of works: twelve months. The works include earthworks (approx. 40,000 cu.m. excavation and approx. 180,000 cu.m. fill) in situ cast reinforced concrete piles of a total length of approx. 21,000 m., in situ cast reinforced concrete of approx. 20,000 cu.m., a precast concrete fence of approx. 2,700 m., development works in an area of approx. 20,000 sq.m., a two-story in situ cast reinforced concrete electricity building of approx. 520 sq.m. and auxiliary electro-mechanical works.

Price of tender documents: NIS 2,989.00 (including VAT).

PRELIMINARY CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TENDER:

- Any bidder wishing to submit a bid in the tender, must meet all the following preliminary conditions:
- Submission of a certificate of the bidder's registration in the Register of Contractors according to the Engineering Contractors (Registration) Law, 5729 - 1969 (hereinafter: "the Law"), in Category 100 C-5 (to be submitted on purchase of the tender documents) or submission of an appropriate exemption by the Minister of Housing in accordance with section 14A of the law.
 - Submission of all approvals required under the Public Bodies (Enforcement of Bookkeeping and Payment of Tax Debts) Law, 5736 - 1976 (to be submitted on purchase of tender documents).
 - Proven and documented experience and performance capability in carrying out works in the nature and scope required in this tender.
 - Financial stability sufficient for performance of the works and for fulfillment of all obligations included in the conditions of the transaction. The bidder must prove, *inter alia*, equity capital of not less than NIS10,000,000 according to audited financial statements as of December 31, 1995.
 - Fulfillment of all the other conditions stipulated in Regulation 6(a) of the Mandatory Tenders Regulations 5753 - 1993.
 - Submission of a bank guarantee linked to the Consumer's Price Index (duly stamped) securing the bid, in an amount equal to 5% of the value of the bid (excluding VAT), in the form included in the tender documents.

The guarantee must be valid until May 15, 1997.

Participation in the tender for contractors, the date of which will be announced separately. The bidders are requested to submit the documents included in paragraphs (a) and (b) on purchase of the tender documents.

Only personnel with the appropriate security clearance and approved by the Corporation will be permitted to perform the work.

The tender documents and additional details may be obtained at the offices of the Tender Department - Projects Construction Division, 16 Hahashmal St., Tel Aviv (11th floor), Tel. 03-5678691/728/770, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. until Tuesday, January 21, 1997.

The tender documents will not be on sale after that date.

Bids must be inserted in the Tenders Box in the Tenders Department, Project Construction Division, 16 Hahashmal St., Tel Aviv (11th floor), by 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 1997.

No undertaking is given by the Corporation to accept the lowest or any other bid at all. Pursuant to Regulation 7(a) of the Mandatory Tenders Regulation 1993, the Corporation reserves the right to negotiate with the bidders filing appropriate bids.

In the event of a contradiction between the Hebrew and the English versions of this announcement, the Hebrew version will be binding.

תאריך 14 בינואר 1997

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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than in listed according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.1.97)

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	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5917	3.6487	3.17	3.24	3.5182
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Pound sterling	2.0450	2.0750	1.27	1.34	1.2422
French franc	5.4242	5.5117	5.53	5.59	5.4648
Japanese yen (100)	0.6053	0.6151	0.60	0.63	0.5935
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Swiss franc	1.9189	1.8483	1.78	1.88	1.8259
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3518	2.3588	2.31	2.43	2.3655
Swedish krona	0.4887	0.4783	0.46	0.48	0.4717
Norwegian krona	0.5103	0.5188	0.50	0.53	0.5217
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Australian dollar	2.3996	2.4354	2.35	2.48	2.4221
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Belgian franc (10)	0.8912	0.7024	0.82	0.71	0.6980
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Irish punt	3.3685	4.0325	—	—	3.9880
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4482	2.4898	6.24	5.50	5.3637
			2.40	2.53	2.4829

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

התאחדות האיגוד

Match-fixing trial for soccer trio begins today

WINCHESTER (AP) — Two days after helping Zimbabwe to a shutout victory in a World Cup qualifier, Bruce Grobbelaar lines up in court today alongside fellow soccer stars Hans Segers and John Fashanu in a match-fixing trial.

The 39-year-old former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper is accused of giving or receiving cash to rig the results of certain Premier League matches in the biggest scandal in English soccer in 32 years.

"I am very confident," Grobbelaar said before Saturday's 3-0 victory over Togo in Harare. "Everything will be cleared. If you go to court and listen, you'll get the full story... People will realize at the end of the day what the real story is, and it will all come out in court."

Also standing trial at Winchester Crown Court are two former Wimbledon players — Dutch goalkeeper Hans Segers and striker John Fashanu — and Malaysian businessman Heng Suen Lim.

Grobbelaar, Segers, Fashanu and Lim are charged with conspiring to give or accept gifts of money as inducements to influence the outcome of games.

Grobbelaar, now with Plymouth in division two, is also charged with corruptly accepting £2,000 from former business partner Chris Vincoet as an inducement or reward for fixing a game.

The offenses allegedly occurred between 1991 and 1994. Police have not identified specific games in the charges.

If convicted, all three players face jail sentences and life bans from the game in the biggest scandal since 1964 when Peter Swan, David 'Bronco' Layne and Tony Kay were jailed for four months and banned for life.

The scandal broke in November 1994 when Vincent made the allegations to the tabloid *Sun* newspaper. Vincent also turned over a video tape allegedly showing Grobbelaar accepting a package of money from him and allegedly explaining how it was possible to fix the result of a game.

Vincent, who is likely to be the chief prosecuting witness at their trial, has since been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice by offering to drop his testimony in exchange for payment. His case will be heard after this one.

MELBOURNE (AP) — Struggling with the heat and Carlos Moya's deep, looping shots, defending champion Boris Becker couldn't make his backhand behave, gradually lost his forehand and let a 2-1 lead in sets slip away.

With his 5-7, 7-6(7-4), 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 loss yesterday, the error-prone Becker became the first major



CHILLING OUT — Boris Becker seeks relief from the searing heat during match with Carlos Moya. Moya knocked the defending champ out of the 1st round of the Australian Open. (Reuters)

Ran advances
Eyal Ran beat Justin Gimelstob (US) 6-3, 7-6(7-4), 3-6, 6-4 yesterday to advance to the second round.

The 154th ATP-ranked Israeli will face Dennis Van Scheppingen (Netherlands, 112th) who upset Zimbabwe's Byron Black (59th) in straight sets 7-6(7-5), 7-6(7-3), 6-4.

casualty in this Australian Open. He also became the tournament's first defending champion to lose in the opening round since Roscoe Tanner in 1977.

The tournament's 1995 champion, France's Mary Pierce, escaped a first-round loss when she rebounded for a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Elena Likhovtseva, the Russian who eliminated her in the second round here last year. Pierce let four match points slip away at 5-3 in the final set and fell behind 0-40 in the next game before triumphing.

A number of prominent players, including women's defending champion Monica Seles, already were missing before opening day because of injuries or fatigue.

Another three players were injured yesterday, including Janette Husarova of Slovakia, who crumpled to the court with a twisted knee after trying to change direction to volley a passing shot by top seed Steffi Graf, Graf, leading 5-1 at the time and the winner by default in just 22 minutes, brought ice and prepared a bandage while waiting for a trainer to arrive.

Michael Chang, the men's No. 2 seed and a finalist here last year, also played nurse, contributing a wet towel to the treatment of a ball girl who collapsed in the 90-degree heat. Meanwhile, he needed just 97 minutes to beat Belgium's Kris Gossens 6-0, 6-3, 6-1.

In-form Briton Tim Henman stormed into the second round with a straight-sets victory over Romanian qualifier Andrei Pavel. Henman, who is unseeded, overcame a tentative start to beat

Ra'anana upends Galil

By ELI GRONER

Maccabi Ra'anana continues to be one of the pleasant surprises of the National Basketball League. Last night's 69-64 home-court victory over Galil Elyon propelled the league newcomers into fourth place in the standings. The loss kept David Blatt's club in third place due to point differential.

Ra'anana garnered the victory by making fewer mistakes than the northerners. For that, coach Arik Shihak should thank reliable veteran Paul Thompson, whose 20 points and solid work on the defensive end helped confound Galil all night long.

Galil had its opportunities though. Early in the game, Andrew Kennedy and Jason Dixon proved unstoppable as Galil jumped out to an early 13-8 lead. However sloppy play and seven first-half turnovers quickly allowed the hosts to get back into the game. Eight consecutive points by Tomer Steinhauser (18 overall) gave Ra'anana a 25-21 lead and the hosts never looked back.

In the second half, with the advantage 38-33, Ra'anana guard Koren Amisha was poked in the eye and had to leave the game. But Thompson merely shouldered more of the offensive responsibilities, and the Ra'anana lead grew.

Galil Elyon did not die easy, however. Every time in the second half that it appeared that Ra'anana would pull away into a double-digit lead, Gur Shelef or Dixon would provide a glimmer of hope by converting important baskets. Both scored 17 points in the game, including four consecutive three-pointers by Shelef at one point.

But it was not to be for the northerners, who have yet to win on the road this year. But one thing is clear. Both teams will have to raise their respective levels if they want to finish the season where they are currently situated in the standings.

Padres make pact with Japanese team

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Is the next Hideo Nomo coming to San Diego?

As part of an unprecedented working arrangement with the Chiba Lotte Marines of the Japanese Pacific League, the Padres have acquired negotiating rights to Japan's latest standout pitcher, Hideki Irapu.

The Padres said Sunday they have already started talks with the 27-year-old power pitcher, and that he might visit San Diego in the near future. In 1996, he went 12-6 with 2.40 ERA.

"I feel thankful that the club gave me a chance to play in the US major leagues," Chiba spokesman Yuji Horimoto quoted Irapu as saying Sunday. "I will consult with (agent) Dan Nomura and begin negotiations."

In return for the negotiating rights to Irapu, Horimoto said the Marines gained the right to negotiate with Padres infielder Jason Thompson and an unidentified left-handed pitcher.

At least five other teams were interested in Irapu, most notably the New York Yankees, although none had negotiating rights.

"I think he's a potential marquee player who could walk in and have an immediate impact," Padres owner John Moores said. "Again, we haven't signed him. We'll continue discussions. It's an exciting prospect for us."

Irapu is described as the Nolan Ryan of Japan, because he has 1,111 strikeouts in 1,101 1/3 innings in his eight-year career. In the last three years he has had 239, 249

and 167 strikeouts.

Irapu was the league ERA leader the last two years. He is 59-59 with a 3.41 ERA in his career, which included a rough first five years, but then saw him dominate the last three seasons.

The Marines use the Padres' spring training complex in Peoria, Arizona, where Moores saw the 6-foot-5 pitcher last spring.

"He is a big man and throws very hard," Moores said. "Apparently, he is incredibly popular with the Japanese."

Padres president Larry Lucchino was in Japan to finalize the deal.

Meanwhile, the *New York Daily News* reported that Nomura is seeking \$6 million a year for Irapu.

"That's the one big stumbling block for us," a Yankees source said. "How do you pay that kind of money for someone who's never pitched over here?"

The *News* also reported that Irapu has had some mysterious injuries recently and is said to have a drinking problem which will bear monitoring.

The working relationship also includes the Padres accepting up to three Chiba Lotte prospects to play in their system, the Padres accepting one coach to study American methods and an exchange of scouting information.

The Marines can continue using the Padres spring training complex as they have since 1995, and there's a possibility of US-Japanese baseball games, including a "World Cup of Baseball."

THE LOCAL SCENE

Glickstein's 'delicate situation'

By HEATHER CHAIT

Captain of the national tennis team, Shlomo Glickstein, will be in a delicate situation Thursday when Israel hosts Uzbekistan in a friendly game in Kiryat Shmona.

Glickstein, recently appointed as advisor to the Uzbek Davis Cup team, will be on a less familiar side of the net this time. The appointment came after Glickstein agreed to millionaire Sasson Khakhshouri's request to assist in the coaching of the Moslem country's tennis players.

Representing Israel are Eyal Erlich and Nir Welgreen, with Amit Naor as coach. From their training camp in Israel, the Uzbeks are set to fly to China for their Davis Cup tie, with Glickstein probably accompanying them.

Rugby: Israel started off well on the first day of the Rugby World Cup Sevens qualifying tournament in Uruguay by beating Paraguay 12-11. Things went sour afterwards as the team lost 19-15 to Trinidad and Tobago and then was decoupled by Western Samoa which won 68-0. On the next day, even Paraguay avenged Israel's only win, beating them 26-0.

Manager and coach of the team was Jeremy Schauder with players Eran Fink, Yitzhak Tsephardia, Darryn Pincus, Guy Dotan, Zevulun Kaye, Adrian Weinzinger, Nick Henri, Alex Tkachenko, Yitzhak Azriel and Avital Eliasov.

The five countries that qualified for the 24-nation event in Hong Kong in March were France, Western Samoa, the Cook Islands, Japan and Argentina.

Bowls: Runner-up at the World Outdoor Championships, bowler Jeff Rabkin, will now have a chance to prove he is an all-rounder. Rabkin leaves for Preston, England, this week to join the world's 32 best bowlers in the World Indoor Championships. Playing on a carpet, Rabkin will face title-holder David Gourlay of Scotland in the first round while

world champion Tony Alcock is also in Rabkin's section.

The £90,000 tournament will be held from January 20 - February 2.

Ten Pin Bowling: The national championships, for under 14-year-olds, was held in Beersheba on Saturday. With the winner of the last three years, Yehav Rabin, now on the national youth team, the alleys were open for a new champion. Winning the boys event was Yonatan Geller from Ramat Gan with Idan Burger, also from Ramat Gan, in second place.

The girls section was won by Moran Yunitzmann from Holon, with Libby Raskin from Netanya the runner-up.

Golf: Winning this week's alliance two-best ball stableford event at Caesarea were Chuck Shaikowitz, Clive Josset, Max

Shapiro and Basil Kaufman. They scored 87 points, 15 under par.

Shaikowitz started with 13 pars, Kaufman had 11 and Shapiro managed 10 pars and a birdie. Just behind them on 86 points were Rena Levy, Dick Fogelson, Leslie Ben Amir and Jules Curburnek. In third place with 85 were Zev Abraham, Efi Ben, John Gainsford and Mike Firon.

Show-jumping: Riders from 10 of the country's centers were in action at Ramat Hasharon's Country Stables in the third in a series of six championship league trials.

Winning the Intermediate League was the home team while Liron's Jockey Club Stables won blue rosettes for placing first in the Advanced League and the Junior League.

his 135th-ranked opponent 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 in 100 minutes.

The slightly built British right-hander has raced up the rankings in the past 12 months from 99 this time last year to his current standing of 14th in the world.

The 22-year-old was initially drawn to meet Mark Philippoussis in the first round but received a stroke of luck when the powerful Australian withdrew from the tournament on Sunday with an arm injury.

Henman, who reached the quarter-finals at last year's Wimbledon, is shaping up for a possible third-round clash with second seed Michael Chang, but must first beat France's Guillaume Raoux.

Moya, who gained confidence by beating Becker indoors in Paris last year in their only previous meeting, said he thought the weather was a key in Monday's 3 1/2-hour match.

"I'm still young," said the 20-year-old Spaniard, who is ranked 25th to Becker's sixth. "I was also tired, but I think he was more tired."

Last year, Becker, 29, had to struggle from behind in five-set matches in his first two rounds en route to the title.

The German had 87 unforced errors to 51 for Moya, but was well ahead in winners — 78 to 47.

The heat was a problem, said Becker, who was seeking his 50th

career title here.

Becker said tennis authorities had overreacted in using softer balls in efforts to slow down the game, but he acknowledged that the balls weren't the reason for his loss.

Women's seeds who advanced yesterday included No. 3 Gabriela Martinez of Spain, a 6-0, 6-2 winner over Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands; No. 10 Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands, a 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 winner over South Korea's Park Sung-hee; and No. 16 Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, who beat Czech player Helena Sukova 6-2, 6-2. No. 11 Judith Wiesner of Austria lost 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 to Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

Mighty Ducks top Canucks, Rangers beat Devils behind Richter's 33 saves

VANCOUVER (AP) — Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya scored second-period goals as the Anaheim Mighty Ducks beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 Sunday night for their third straight victory.

Selanne notched his 25th goal of the season — the fifth straight game in which he has scored — and Kariya added a power-play goal.

Kariya broke a 2-2 tie by converting a rebound at 10:12 after Vancouver forward Gino Odjick was assessed a double minor for deliberately high-sticking Jason Marshall.

Brian Bellows scored the other Anaheim goal as the Mighty Ducks improved to 17-21-5 in their bid to gain a playoff position for the first time in the club's

brief history.

The Canucks (20-21-1) were outshot 41-23. Goaltender Kirk McLean managed to keep it close.

Rangers 3, Devils 0

Wayne Gretzky set up a pair of third-period goals to break open a close game and goaltender Mike Richter made 33 saves to lead New York Rangers to a home victory.

Richter's shutout, his third of the season and 17th of his career, stopped a two-game losing streak for the Rangers.

Gretzky set up Ulf Samuelsson 57 seconds into the third period for a 2-0 Rangers lead. Gretzky and Luc Robitaille worked a give-and-go 1:54 later to make it 3-0.

Only games scheduled.

Palmer enters Mayo Clinic for treatment

NEW YORK (AP) — Arnold Palmer was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, yesterday to determine a course of treatment for prostate cancer.

The 67-year-old golf great learned Friday that a biopsy indicated he had cancer. He left the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California, where he was attending the PGA Tour awards dinner at the Mercedes Championship, and returned to his Florida home on Saturday.

"His mood is good but he is subdued from his normal demeanor," said Doc Griffin, a longtime friend.

Griffin said Palmer, an avid pilot, flew himself to the renowned clinic on Sunday.

Prostate cancer is a slow developing cancer that can be successfully treated if detected early.

NCAA urged to put athletes first

NASHVILLE (AP) — Executive director Cedric Dempsey, in an extraordinary address opening the NCAA convention, urged schools Sunday night to stop worrying so much about themselves and show more concern for athletes.

"Much of our legislation — has been based upon maintaining a level playing field," Dempsey told more than 2,500 delegates from more than 900 NCAA schools.

"Because we fear that someone else may somehow gain some slight advantage, we put the level playing field principle first."

Dempsey urged delegates to approve a measure to allow athletes to hold jobs during the academic year, an idea which has been beaten down at earlier conventions.

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Hanegbi: Livnat must apologize for 'slander'

By EVELYN GORDON

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday demanded a public apology from Communications Minister Limor Livnat, for accusing him of telling the cabinet that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had supported Roni Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general.

Meanwhile, three Labor MKs yesterday demanded an urgent meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee to discuss Hanegbi's "conflicting versions" regarding Barak's response to the appointment. The three were faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, Moshe Shahal, and Ephraim Sneh.

Hanegbi called a press conference at the Knesset to show reporters his letter to Livnat and one page from the protocol of Friday's cabinet meeting. According to this page, Police Minister Avigdor Kahalani asked Hanegbi whether Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had approved Bar-On's appointment.

"Yes," Hanegbi replied, according to the transcript. "I also informed the president of the Supreme Court, and of course I also informed the attorney-general, who welcomed it, and he will help him carry out the necessary transition period."

In his letter to Livnat, Hanegbi wrote: "I was astonished to hear, on the *Seeing the World* program a few days ago, Israel Television reporter Michael Doron say that you 'distinctly remember Hanegbi saying he received the blessing of the Supreme Court president' for attorney Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general."

"The transcript of the cabinet meeting... demonstrates unequivocally that you misled the television reporter, whether intentionally or not."

Hanegbi told the press conference that, "This is a slander which should never have been uttered. In my opinion, this is a classic illustration of what happened with this entire appointment - a lack of desire to know what really happened."

Livnat promptly responded with an angry two-page letter, in which she implied that Hanegbi had deliberately misled the cabinet. The statement that Barak had been informed was sandwiched between statements saying that both Netanyahu and Ben-Yair approved, she wrote, which made it easy for the listener to assume that Barak had approved as well.

Livnat wrote that Hanegbi is to

blame for the fiasco, saying that had her proposal to delay the vote by a week and give the cabinet time to study the issue been accepted, the ensuing embarrassment might have been avoided.

"I feel very badly for attorney Bar-On, who through no fault of his own has been badly injured, and has paid the heaviest price of all - except, of course, for the price paid by the Government of Israel," she wrote.

Hanegbi told reporters he hopes to have a replacement candidate for Bar-On soon. This candidate will be chosen "via another review of the same candidates" from among whom Bar-On was chosen, he said.

He added that he does not intend to repeat the procedural mistakes made with Bar-On. His recommendation will be announced to the press, and cabinet ministers will be given the candidate's curriculum vitae at least two days in advance, he said.

However, he blamed the press and the opposition for its unfair treatment of Bar-On, saying they had "utterly disqualified him without giving him a chance to show what he could do."

Bar-On, he said, called him after watching the news last Friday night and said: "I don't know whether I'm Dracula or Frankenstein."

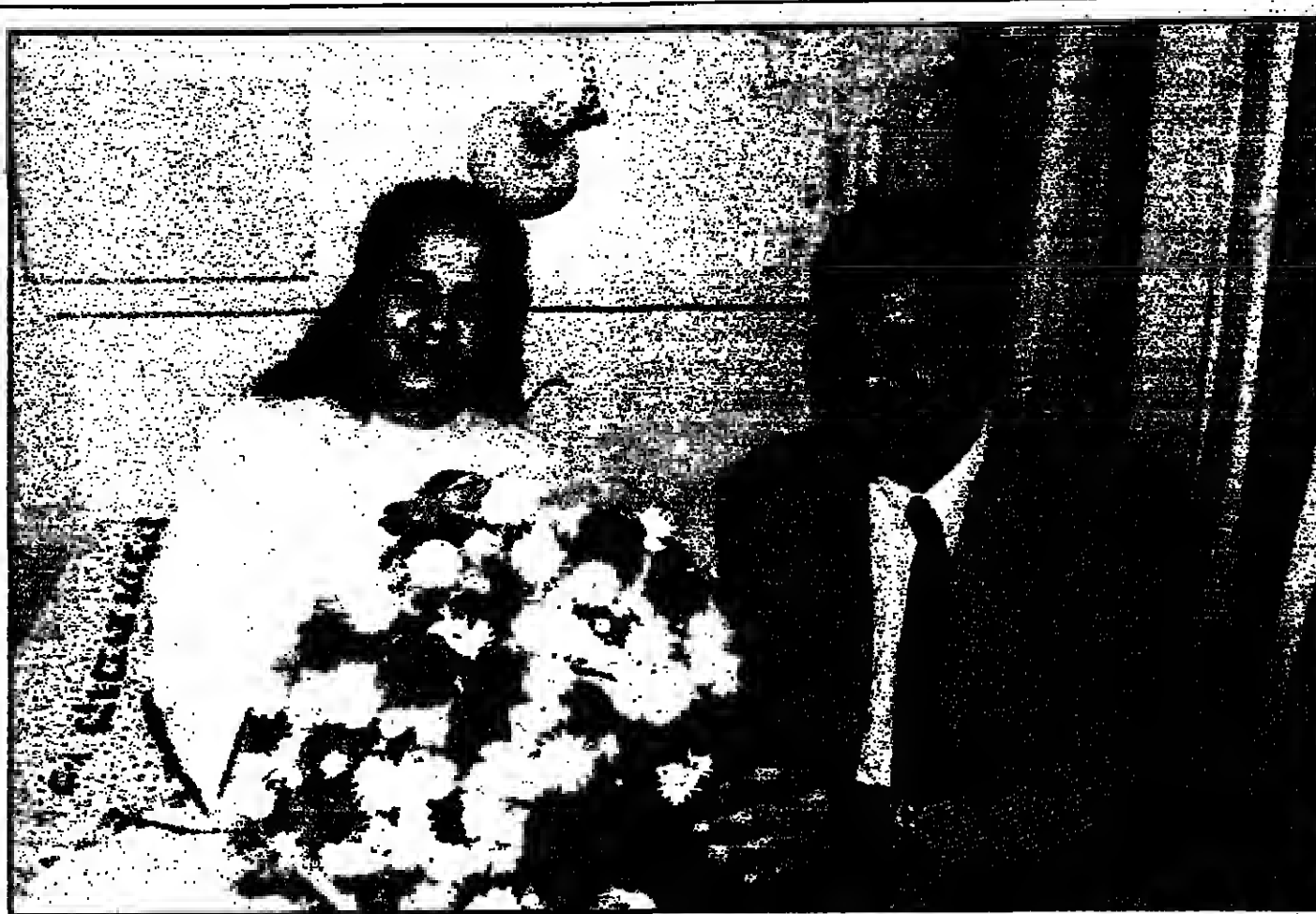
Hanegbi said he has no intention of resigning, despite numerous calls from opposition MKs that he do so.

"There was not a minister in the [previous] leftist government whose resignation I did not demand twice a week," he said. "I intend to act exactly as they did."

Meanwhile, Acting Attorney-General Edna Arbel told Army Radio yesterday that Bar-On's decision to resign was a correct one. "I think that from his own point of view and that of the [legal] system, this was a correct step; although I thought, and I told him so, that it was possible to wait for the decision of the [High] Court."

"But he wanted to save himself and the minister - who certainly had only good intentions toward him - all the embarrassment and unpleasantness, and of course the government as well."

Bar-On yesterday told Army Radio that those who had accused him of being a compulsive gambler were "first-class liars" and warned that they would be made to pay for their smear campaign. To this end, he said, he intends to sue writer Irit Linor for libel and defamation of character.



Flowers for the postwoman

The Postal Authority is suing the owner of the dog which bit mail deliverer Rivka Livni while she was at work, authority director-general Moshe Tery said while visiting her at Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot. Livni underwent plastic surgery after being bitten on her upper lip and she will need additional operations in the future. The authority is very concerned for its workers, Tery said, and plans to give Livni all the legal and emotional help she needs, along with a free week of vacation at a local hotel.

(Text: Judy Siegel, Photo: Dan Osovsky/Tzafar/Net)

Civil Service chief slams Ben-Yair's pension demand

By EVELYN GORDON

Outgoing attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair's demand for a 91 percent pension violates the law and would cost the state an extra NIS 3 million, Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Ben-Yair has been insisting that his contract with the state, which he drafted himself, mandates a pension equal to 91% of a Supreme Court justice's salary, even though 70% pensions are the rule.

Hollander said all the jurists he has consulted on this matter - in the Treasury, the State Attorney's Office and the Civil Service Commission - have agreed that there is no legal basis for Ben-Yair's claim. The attorney-general's salary and working conditions are defined as being identical to those of Supreme Court justices, and the law clearly states that their pensions cannot exceed 70%, he said.

Hollander admitted that exceptions to this rule are possible if one receives a pension from two completely different sources. For instance, a civil servant who was later appointed a judge could have pensions from both places, which might together total more than 70%.

Ben-Yair reckons he is entitled to a 70% pension for his previous service as a district court judge, plus the 21% pension he earned as attorney-general. However, Hollander said, both of these are judicial pensions, so he is no different from a district court judge who was later promoted to the Supreme Court. His entire judicial career is considered one continuous job.

Ben-Yair claims his career should be considered as one job for some purposes and two jobs for others, depending on which interpretation is most beneficial to him, Hollander said. It is only because the two jobs are considered one that Ben-Yair's pension will be even 70% of a Supreme Court justice's salary, which is about NIS 35,000 a month. If they were two distinct jobs, he would get only 21% of a Supreme Court justice's salary, plus 70% of the much lower salary of a district court judge.

"This is not a small benefit [for someone retiring] at age 54," said Hollander. "According to our actuarial calculations, this is a benefit worth some NIS 7m."

Giving Ben-Yair 91% of a Supreme Court justice's salary, instead of 70%, would add a further NIS 3m. to that cost, Hollander added.

Hollander noted that Ben-Yair's predecessor, Yosef Harish, was in exactly the same situation, as he was also a district court judge before becoming attorney-general. However, Harish gets only a 70% pension. A 91% pension would be "absolutely illegal, because [the attorney-general's] conditions are those of a Supreme Court justice, and no one has the authority to give him more than that," Hollander said.

Hollander added that he objects strenuously to a proposal to bring the commission's dispute with Ben-Yair to arbitration. Ordinary retirees, who want an extra percent or two on salaries of NIS 2,000-3,000 a month, have to sue in the labor courts, he said. Ben-Yair should have to do the same.

For MKs, the toughest cut is their pay

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset House Committee yesterday failed to reach a decision on the hardest cut of all - MKs' salaries.

The committee met with Finance Minister Dan Meridor who asked the MKs to eschew the 6.9 percent rise they voted themselves last week. Meridor stressed that such a wage hike would force increases throughout the public sector through linked wage agreements. He said he also feared the effects would be felt in the private sector.

MKs from Yisrael Ba'aliya, on the initiative of Yuli Stern, said they would forego the raise. Stern called on the committee to decide to accept only the cost-of-living increases received by all salaried employees. "This year is a year of budget cuts for all of us and MKs must provide a personal example," Stern said.

MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) supported Stern saying: "It is unacceptable that MKs will ignore the severe cuts in the national budget which they just endorsed and thrust on the Treasury a heavy burden in the form of a wage rise for themselves."

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi also spoke against the wage hike. "MKs receive a high wage as it is,

and if someone doesn't like the wages, they don't have to run around the country competing to get into the House." Ze'evi made his support for Meridor's request conditional on ministers also agreeing to forego their wage increase. He suggested that MKs who rarely turned up for the Knesset should have the days off deducted from their monthly wages.

MK Shevah Weiss (Labor), former Knesset Speaker, repeated his support for leaving decisions on wages and pensions to an "outside" body, like the Rosen-Tzvi committee which last year gave them a 33% wage hike in return for giving up the right to moonlight.

MK Meir Shebrit (Likud) strongly favored the wage, hike saying it is not unreasonable, particularly in view of the ban on moonlighting and the high costs of the primary election system.

Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan proposed a compromise under which the increase would be added to MKs expense accounts instead of as a wage hike. This would avoid the linkage with senior civil servants.

National Religious Party MKs asked for the vote to be postponed to enable them to meet with their faction to decide how to act.

Swiss anti-semitism mounts in Holocaust funds fight

ZURICH (Reuters) - A leading Swiss Jew said yesterday that anti-semitism was on the rise, fuelled by a government minister's accusation that Jewish groups seeking compensation for wartime suffering were trying to "blackmail" Switzerland.

Anti-Jewish feeling, long suppressed in Swiss society, is surfacing in letters and telephone calls to Jewish groups and virulent letters to newspapers, said Martin Rosenfeld, general secretary of the Swiss Jewish Federation.

He pinned the blame squarely on Economics Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who Rosenfeld said had made such sentiment respectable last month by dismissing Jewish groups' calls for quick compensation as "extortion and blackmail."

"The whole thing arose after the comments from Delamuraz and the subsequent uproar. It had been quiet before," said Rosenfeld, whose organization is an umbrella group for the roughly 30,000-strong Jewish community in Switzerland. "There is clearly a connection."

WEATHER

Haiifa	11-18
Tiberias	-11-21
Altda	10-19
Samaria	10-18
Tel Aviv	9-19
Jerusalem	9-17
Beerseba	10-20
Dead Sea	13-22
Elat	12-24
Golan	7-16

Forecast: Rainy to partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	01	04	cloudy
Berlin	02	05	cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	25	rain
Caro	12	25	rain
Chicago	-10	-05	cloudy
Copenhagen	-02	00	cloudy
Frankfurt	-01	02	cloudy
Geneva	-01	02	cloudy
Helsinki	-04	01	cloudy
Hong Kong	-15	05	cloudy
London	05	12	rain
Los Angeles	09	18	clear
Madrid	07	15	clear
Moscow	-09	07	cloudy
Munich	04	07	cloudy
New York	-06	02	cloudy
Paris	00	03	cloudy
Rome	09	17	clear
Stockholm	-03	00	cloudy
Sydney	08	17	clear
Tel Aviv	02	18	cloudy
Toronto	-08	18	cloudy
Warsaw	-08	01	cloudy
Zurich	-04	02	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the nine of spades, the jack of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

Polish PM to discuss restitution

BY SHEVA TSUR

The issue of restitution for Polish Jewish communal property seized during the Holocaust will be discussed here today when Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimirz Cimoszewicz arrives for an official visit.

Earlier, the World Federation of Polish Jewry had published a statement expressing dismay over the Polish government's decision not to compensate former Polish Jews throughout the world.

"The Jews of Poland living today in Israel and the Diaspora express their dismay and disappointment over the fact that the Polish government refuses to recognize their moral and legal rights to have returned to them properties belonging to Jewish communities and public organizations and being held by the Poles, and its refusal to even negotiate the issue with them," a statement said.

But yesterday, federation head Stefan Grayek said that he, together with other representatives of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, would meet Wlodzimirz and members of his entourage on the subject this evening.

Grayek said that the Sejm, Poland's parliament, is considering restitution for "a mere 2,000 Jewish members of nine communities" living today in Poland. The issue is currently being discussed in a parliamentary committee, he said.

The federation's statement Sunday charged the Polish government with violating human rights by refusing to enter into negotiations to return the properties.



Tzahi Hanegbi (Isaac Harari)

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Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.